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BIRTH.

On the 1st May, at No. 8, Des Voeux Villas, Mt. Kellett, Peak, the wife of O. von der HEYDE, of a son.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 2nd April arrived per N. D. L. steamer *Hamburg*, on the 1st May (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Rivett-Carnac, the Financial Adviser to the Siamese Government, is going home very shortly on financial business.

Mr. William F. Aldrich of San Francisco has been appointed United States Vice-Consul General at Hongkong and is expected to arrive on the 25th instant.

H.E. Sir Henry Blake, Lady Blake, Miss Blake, and Viscount Sutherland left Shanghai on the 20th ult. for Hankow by the Indo-China steamer *Yuenwo*.

The Japanese Consul at Hongkong courteously informs us that the day for the Marriage Ceremony of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan has been fixed for the 10th May.

H.E. Liu K'ang-yi, newly-restored Viceroy of the Liangk'ang provinces, left Tientsin on the 26th ult. by the China Merchants' steamer *Hsien* direct for Nanking. A large staff accompanied him.

On the completion of the Japanese Naval Programme the total number of warships in the Japanese Navy will be brought up to 66, but the vessels which are taking part in the naval review will be about 40.

General Otis was to leave Manila by the S.S. *Meana* for San Francisco via Guam. The military command will be taken over by General MacArthur, Governor-General of the Department of the North, and at present on a tour of the Islands.

According to the Shanghai papers of the 24th inst. all the vessels of the Peiyang Squadron of the sadly reduced Chinese Navy which were then in the neighbouring waters were under orders to proceed north on the 25th inst.

Tokyo advices state that Sir Ernest Satow, British Minister, and Count Orfini, Italian Minister, who are proceeding to Europe from Japan on leave of absence, attended the Imperial Palace on the 24th ult. and were received in audience by the Emperor.

It is reported that at a place called Sha-jao, in Ningpo district, Chekiang, the natives have attacked a French mission and wounded the French missionary in charge. A report of the occurrence has been sent to the French Consul General at Shanghai, who is moving in the matter.

The *Kobe Chronicle* on the 24th ult., announced that a conference of the Japanese Consuls stationed at Shanghai, Foochow, Hongkong and Amoy was to be held in a few days at Amoy, at the request of the Governor-General of Formosa, and that Mr. Goto, Director of the Formosan Administration Bureau, would attend the conference, the object of which is not stated.

The Shanghai papers report, on the statement of a recent visitor to Peking, that Sir Claude Macdonald has been laid up lately in Peking with sickness, as has also one of his children. Both were doing well at last advices. Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of Customs, has also been confined to his room for several days with ill-health, but this is said not to have been dangerous.

According to Shanghai native papers, the order forbidding the publication and reading of native papers in the jurisdiction of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is expected to be withdrawn. Recently Consuls of various nationalities in Hankow have written to His Excellency demanding that such orders should be withdrawn, or else they would request their Ministers at Peking to claim their rights from the Taungli Yamen.

The French Consul at Hankow has received telegraphic information from Ching Chou-fu, Hapeh, that riotous mobs have attacked the French Mission in Chien Li-shieh, at a place called Lo Shan-chen, and that they were threatening to burn down the church and other buildings when the message left. The scene of the trouble is quite close to the border of Hunan and the people are reported to be in a very turbulent and excited state, the local officials not being able to control them. The magistrate has accordingly requested the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to send extra troops to protect the missionaries.

A Correspondent writes to *The North China Daily News* that ramburs are rife all over the Wenchow district, indicative of unrest and possibly trouble brewing. Placards have been stuck up in many places calling on the people to strike a blow for freedom and expel the foreigners, while in certain points flags have been raised as rallying points for the members of the Kolao Hui, inscribed with the sentence: "Commissioned by Heaven and obeying commands, let us destroy heretical sects." Sufficient credence has been given to these reports to cause a large body of troops to be called in from the country and quartered in the city. Whether this unrest is due solely to news of the state of matters in Shantung, or whether it may have been fostered by proclamations in the city offering rewards for the capture of the reformer Kang Yu-wei, is hard to say.

Despatches received recently by the local mandarins from Moukden, says *The North China Daily News*, report strong hostility and armed opposition to the Russians in Liaoyang prefecture, near Moukden, on the part of the inhabitants, and that in a fray which occurred between the two parties the Russians had seven men very severely wounded and a few others slightly injured. The country people lost one killed in the fight and five slightly wounded.

A correspondent writes:—The prevailing idea that Li Hung-chang is not fulfilling his promise with regard to stopping piracy on the West River is wrong. At the present moment there are four gunboats, six well-armed launches and 20 man-of-war junks, patrolling the river between Wongmoon and Kongmoon. On Wednesday there was a public execution of pirates at Chao Shan, the late centre of piracy, and quite a number of pirates have been decapitated at Canton during the last month.

A naval expert, talking to a representative of the *Jimmin*, takes a very confident view of his country's capacity for defence. He thinks that England is the only Power Japan need fear at sea. The Japanese fleet is much stronger than anything Russia could send against her, and even if France joined in the fray, she dare not reduce her fleet in home waters sufficiently to be really formidable to Japan. He evidently has a great admiration for the methods pursued in the British navy, and is convinced that no other service is in such a condition of efficiency. He is also persuaded that the Japanese fleet could easily seal the seas of China and Japan if the occasion for such a measure arose.

Much regret will be felt at the death of Sir Nicholas Hannen, announced by telegraph in our issue of the 27th ult., especially by residents in Shanghai and Yokohama, where he was long known and very highly esteemed, both in his official and private capacities. Born in 1842, he was a B.A. of London University and graduated with honours in Logic and Moral Philosophy in 1864. He was called to the Bar in 1866. He arrived in Shanghai in 1868 and practised his profession as a barrister-at-law. Appointed Acting Deputy Judge at Yokohama in 1871, he continued in charge till May 1874. In 1878 he was appointed Crown Advocate at Shanghai, and in 1881 Judge of Her Majesty's Court for Japan. From the end of 1881 to the beginning of 1883 he was Acting Chief Justice at Shanghai. On the amalgamation of the offices of Chief Justice and Consul General, on the retirement of Sir R. Bannister in 1891, Mr. Hannen was appointed the first holder of the dual post. He received the honour of Knighthood in 1895. His conduct of that difficult post on excited the admiration of everyone in Shanghai, and socially he was no less esteemed, being an active supporter of every form of manly recreation. During his occupancy of the position of Chief Justice he had some difficult cases to decide, such as the Wu Shih Shan missionary case at Foochow and the Cheek case at Bangkok, which necessitated his visiting other ports. His decisions in these cases invariably gave great satisfaction. Sir Nicholas was brother to Sir James Hannen, for so many years Judge of the Probate and Divorce Court, and to Mr. Charles Hannen, formerly Commissioner of Customs at Peking. He leaves a widow and a son and daughter, with whom much sympathy will be felt by all foreigners in China and Japan.

CUSTOMS DUES AND THE RUMOURED INCREASE.

(Daily Press, 28th April.)

A report has been assiduously circulated that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, the British Minister at Peking, has agreed to an increase of the Customs Dues from five to seven per cent. The rumour is silly, but like many silly sayings is likely to do harm in the exact proportion of its silliness. Sir CLAUDE has consented to increase the Customs Dues to seven and a half per cent, and so has the British Government—nay more, the Chambers of Commerce, the individual merchants, and even the China Association itself, have all expressed their perfect willingness to agree to such a modification. In fact it has not been the amount of the Duties that at any time have entered into the discussion, but the very much more important circumstance that the Customs Duties represented but the smallest portion of the disabilities to which trade was subjected; and that each petty official took upon himself, with the tacit consent of Peking, to levy on goods, foreign as well as native, passing his jurisdiction just what fees and dues it pleased him to assign. When the collection of the duties was first placed in the hands of joint commissioners appointed by the Powers, it was undoubtedly presumed that these commissioners would see that none but the duties fixed by the Tariff would be imposed. It was, in fact, to prevent such abuses that the collection was taken out of the hands of the native officials, and when the Inspectorship passed into the hands of an Inspector General, who became a high Chinese official, much of this ideal clung to him. Unfortunately with the course of time it came to be recognised that the Inspector General was a Chinese official pure and simple. Had this position been accepted in its entirety little harm would have been done, but unluckily some of the old tradition still clung to the British Foreign Office, that it was specially the business of the Customs Staff to see that British and generally foreign interests were part of the duties of the office. Hence arose the strange custom that the British Foreign Office, in place of trusting to its own Minister for information, made an invariable rule of going down to Portland Place or the office of the Inspectorate General, when such was needed. So far as mere facts go, the information given was doubtless in the main correct, but the Counsel for the defence is hardly the person to apply to for information as to a criminal charge. We have no desire to cast any reflection on the gentlemen in charge, further than to remark that this was a position in which the Government of the day had no justification for placing any honourable man. However independent an officer under such conditions might strive to be, it became morally impossible for him to act otherwise than he has done. He was in possession of certain facts belonging to his employers, and could not, as the Foreign Office itself must be aware, betray their secrets. Yet it is to sources such as these that one British Government after another has looked for the righting of the numerous subjects of complaint that rise up from day to day. Let us take this affair of the enhanced duties. The duties, as we have said, only form a part of a very much wider question, and of this the British Minister is well aware and has informed his Government accordingly. The Minister reports that under certain conditions and guarantees there has been a general concurrence of opinion, and that if the Chinese Government would once for all formally

resign all attempts to levy any further taxation, and permit the goods on which duty had once for all been paid to circulate freely, the mere proposal to increase the duties, would meet with no opposition, provided it were accompanied by rectification of values and a definite Tariff. In such a course there is little reason to doubt the United States Government would be at one with the English and possibly something might be accomplished. This, however, would be too straightforward a course for LI HUNG-CHANG to adopt, and the Chinese Minister in London is put on the track. Now, as we have before said, there is no reason to doubt that Sir CHI CHEN LO FENG-LO is quite capable of seeing the advantage to China herself of such a course, but the Minister has his instructions, which are at any cost to prevent such a settlement being arrived at. He instructs his subordinates accordingly to throw as much cold water as they individually can on the scheme, while he prepares himself to undertake the old game of Progress. It is nothing to him that the game is getting worn out so long as he can find people willing to be gulls; BURLINGAME tried it on successfully in 1868, and it took immensely; he himself has in a mild way tried his hand at it, and on every occasion it won the gallery. He has only to add a few little inventions, and one of these is naturally that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD has been converted, and has agreed to the increased Tariff. So far, of course, there is little harm done, and if the affair were permitted to rest on the foundation of the Minister's assertion, no one would believe it, but unfortunately certain silly nobodies have caught hold of the story, and are making themselves very busy spreading it about with an air of mystery. It is possible that many are ignorant of the foundation of the tale, but there are others whose sole aim is to cast discredit on the British Minister, and who are quite well aware of the tainted source whence it proceeds. Unfortunately we have seen so many instances of the feebleness of Lord SALISBURY, when China is in question, that we cannot acquit him of having given some countenance to the tale.

RUSSIA'S AIMS AND BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE.

(Daily Press, 2nd May.)

However much we may deprecate Russia's action in the Far East, and we certainly are not going to whitewash her methods of pure aggression and undisguised selfishness, there is yet much in it that consists of genuine progress, which as Englishmen we should be the last to oppose or contravene. The race that has peopled the entire breadth of the North American continent, and has made a nation of Australia, and accomplished all this within the century, is not likely to view with hostile feelings the natural outlet that Russia has found in Eastern Asia; rather would she extend the right hand of friendship, and hail Russia as a fellow-worker in the great cause of humanity. In many respects the two great colonies of British Columbia and Primorsk, which have fallen to England and Russia respectively, will bear comparison; both are fertile both possessed of great mineral wealth, and both within that climatic range where the European finds the greatest scope for his faculties, mental and physical. Moreover, both have been part of the natural expansion of the nations' legitimate advance. We cannot go back to the times of WILLIAM III., nor can Russia retrace her steps to the foundation of her empire under her great PETER; yet so old are the underlying causes which have

brought the two nations face to face on the opposite shores of the North Pacific. We have our ways of colonisation, and Russia has hers; and it is, to say the least of it, unfortunate that Russia, with so fair and open a case in her hands, should have descended to the unfriendly and too frequently underhand methods which have accompanied her march through Asia. It is true that we did not understand Russia, and that much of the ill-feeling that has arisen between the two Empires is the fruit of this misunderstanding; but the misunderstanding has been the fault of Russia herself, and could have been avoided, had Russia taken a little more straightforward course in her diplomatic intercourse. There has always been an evident desire on the part of the English people to work with Russia; the two nations had sufficiently much in common, and the commerce between them showed that each was in a position to supplement the other's needs; and had the people of the two nations been left to work out their own destinies, there is no doubt that a state of mutual confidence would have sprung up between the two. But the Russian Government had no confidence in its own people and less in that of England; it was berides in that inchoate stage of financial development when it sought to render trade most profitable to itself by arresting its development with barriers raised at every possible passage. It was true that England was its best purchaser, and might might not unnaturally expect to be coated as a customer with a growing account. But unfortunately the more England poured into Russia, the more distrust she experienced; and this distrust once engendered went on in an increasing ratio, and from trade spread into politics. Why the discomfiture of Russian trade should be conceived as being in any way advantageous to England it is difficult to surmise, but that it should be was accepted as a truism by every Russian Finance Minister, who took steps accordingly to render it impossible, is still more remarkable. That this was the view taken is unfortunately too true, but meanwhile evasive in which ministers had comparatively little to say commenced to revolutionise even Russia. Though it was the fashion to deride the emancipation of the serfs as the harmless fad of an amiable Emperor, the measure, after a generation, began to have its natural effects in gradually opening the eyes of the people to the great wealth of their country, waiting only to be developed. The present Tsar, aided by the most able Finance Minister that Russia has as yet produced, threw himself heart and soul into the project, and with the financial help of France at his disposal set himself to the task. The ambition is a worthy one, and the country has already felt its effects; following out the tradition of PETER the Great, Russia turned her attention to the consolidation of those great tracts of Asia which in the previous generation she had overrun, and the result quickly showed the wisdom of the step. In such a task Russia might have felt assured of the co-operation of England, but old prejudices have hitherto proved too strong, and the work was unluckily taken up in a spirit of hostility rather than of friendly co-operation, and a cordon of hostile tariffs was raised between the two countries. Again in the development of Eastern Siberia the same unfriendly feeling was permitted to gain the upper hand. This was more especially shown in the case of the Great Siberian Railway, where it was assumed that the attitude of England would of necessity be a hostile one. Yet England had shown all through her interest, and her

intention not to throw any obstacles in the way of the development of these great territories. England, in fact, with her large interests in the Pacific, was in a position to hail this addition to her commerce, and purposely left the road open. That a large section of the rising statesmen of the Empire on both sides saw that each country had much to gain by a better understanding is doubtless the case, but yet it is undeniable that the old leaven is still working, and sufficiently so to hurt the best interests of both nations.

Having said so much we can the better turn to what Russia has been doing in those regions, and see how much we really have in common. When in 1860 Russia obtained the sanction of China to her entering the uninhabited plains between the Ussuri and the Ocean, she had half unconsciously taken a step which made her potentially a great Pacific power. She probably did not understand the wealth of the new land that had fallen to her, but she had acted in accordance with her traditional policy of extension along the lines of least resistance. No other Power at the time was in touch with this district, nor did Russia herself for many years try to develop it. Twenty years ago the land was a wilderness. "Our people," said the Governor to an Englishman, speaking of the fertility of the land, "are not as your agriculturists, and have no disposition to emigrate; if you only had it, your people would not permit it to remain unoccupied." But the awakening took place, and, restored to freedom, the Russian peasant showed himself equal to the task. Under the old régime Siberia was a source of terror to the Russian peasant, and the Government found that compulsory banishment could never be made a means of developing these regions, however wealthy they might prove; but when it turned it to the wiser system of encouraging emigration, results happened similar to what have occurred with ourselves in Australia. As long as we made our colonies the dumping-ground for our criminal population, no advance was possible; but the result of putting an end to enforced emigration was to make a new nation, already strong enough materially to aid the mother country. So when Russia began to look upon Siberia as something better than a receptacle for her unruly spirits, the Russian agriculturist commenced to avail himself of the opportunities offered by the new country. Suffice it to say that the districts which were left only twenty years ago to the wild beasts, or still wilder men, are now becoming the homes of a settled and advancing civilization. Such has been the outcome of Russia's new policy, and it is one in welcoming which England can well join. Speaking of the revolution brought about, *Engineering* in its issue of the 9th March remarked:—"We have from time to time brought the Trans-Siberian Railway before the notice of our readers and indicated some of the probable results from a commercial point of view. We have also shown that many of the political problems which have recently arisen in the Far East have been brought about by that great undertaking, and that, in short, the engineer is the real revolutionist. We have pointed out the necessity of looking at the various aspects of a subject, as there is danger if attention is directed too exclusively to one that its real meaning and importance is overlooked. Still, as we have more than once indicated, so far as we can see the interests of Britain and Russia are not antagonistic, but complementary, and

"the task of the statesman is to so guide them that there will be neither unnecessary friction nor an open conflict, but the welfare of all concerned promoted."

This is a wise utterance, and we hope to see before long that the fact that the interests of Russia are in the long run rather complementary than in their nature opposed, may in time begin to bear good fruit in a better understanding between two Powers, who, with all their traditional differences, have really more in common than any other nations, except ourselves and the United States.

THE WEST RIVER QUESTION IN 1899.

(Daily Press, 30th April.)

The Blue Book in China which arrived by the English Mail on Friday contains among other correspondence a number of despatches relating to the state of affairs on the West River, commencing with the communication from the Colonial to the Foreign Office, enclosing Sir HENRY A. BLAKE's despatch of March 2nd reporting the increased frequency of piratical outrages in Chinese waters adjacent to Hongkong. Next we have a letter from Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to Lord SALISBURY, in which he points out that "the Governor of Canton is singularly helpless in the matter," and says that he has thought it his duty to address the Tsungli Yamen in strong terms; he encloses two letters, dated November 22nd, 1898, and February 18th, 1899, in the latter of which he announces that unless immediate steps are taken by the Chinese Government he will have to report for the consideration of the British Government the advisability of either having the river patrolled or placing guards on the steamers, the expense of which would be made the subject of a claim on the Chinese Government. On 27th April Lord SALISBURY wrote to Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE, approving Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's representation to the Tsungli Yamen; the Colonial Office also expressed its satisfaction at the course taken. Copies of the despatches relating to the increase of piracy were meanwhile sent to the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station.

The next letter on the subject is one from Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE to Lord SALISBURY, enclosing a translation of a despatch from the Viceroy and Governor at Canton to Acting-Consul Fox at Samshui, dated March, 10th 1899, in which they protest against the presence of H.M.S. *Sandpiper* on the West River and claim that prompt action has always been taken by the Chinese authorities to protect British and other traders. "Now that the Admiral has sent up a man-of-war to afford protection to British interests," continues this remarkable document, "this vessel will doubtless be quite capable of coping with the robbers." But the Viceroy and Governor deny China's responsibility "if, owing to remissness, the British warship is not able to protect itself." China's protection to traders will be resumed if British men-of-war cease to come up the West River. Mr. Fox replied, pointing out that the sending of a gunboat up the West River differed in no respect from the custom prevailing for many years on the Yangtze, though there peace prevailed. As to the safety of the gunboat, he assured the Viceroy and Governor they need have no anxiety. The statement as to the prompt action of the Chinese Government in cases of piracy "does not seem," Mr. Fox said, "at the present time to be borne out by facts."

The tale is taken up by a despatch received by Lord SALISBURY on August 7th from Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE, mentioning the *Wo-on* case (which we reported in our issue of June 3rd last year) and relating that Mr. MANFIELD had been authorised to claim for the losses of the launch-owners and employes only. The receipt is announced of a telegram from the Consul at Canton, pointing out that piracy was flourishing and that no serious attempts were being made by the Chinese to stop the outrages. "I consider, therefore," concludes Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE, "that the time has come when it is my duty to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, the advisability of Her Majesty's Government taking steps to protect British lives and property in the Canton waterways, of the nature indicated in the warnings addressed by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to the Chinese Government on the 18th February last." On August 15th Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE's letter was forwarded by the Foreign Office to the Admiralty and a request was made that the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station should make suggestions as to what he could do in the matter. The letter was also forwarded to the Colonial Office. The next communication is one to Lord SALISBURY from the London Chamber of Commerce on August 16th, in which the telegram from our Chamber of Commerce is quoted to show that no reliance could be placed on the Viceroy of Canton, that piracy interfered very seriously with trade, and that more gunboats were necessary to protect British interests on the West River. The despatch expresses the hope that serious attention will be given to these representations. On August 21st Lord SALISBURY received a further despatch from Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE relating to the *Wo-on* case and endorsing Mr. MANFIELD's report on his action in this case, in which the Consul protested that he was not exaggerating in saying that "a reign of terror exists which is seriously injuring trade." On August 22nd the Commander-in-Chief telegraphed that the *Tweed* had been sent to join the *Sandpiper* in patrolling the river and that a torpedo-boat could be sent as tender to the *Tweed*. At this the Colonial Office expressed its satisfaction, and telegrams passed between Lord SALISBURY and Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE on the subject. On September 3rd Lord SALISBURY received the petition from British and Foreign merchants in Hongkong to the Governor, relating to the serious losses sustained through piracy. On the same day Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE forwarded an extract from the Canton Intelligence Report for the June quarter showing that the Provincial Governor was "contemplating steps" for suppressing piratical outrages. A scheme suggested by Mr. WATERS, Instructor at the Whampoa Naval and Military School, for the formation of a flotilla of five torpedo-boats under joint command of himself and a Chinese military official, was said to have been taken up with considerable interest by the Viceroy, but to "run some risk of falling through, owing to some jealousy which exists against Mr. WATERS." Another letter from Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE relates that, as the Viceroy refused to discuss the demand for compensation in the *Wo-on* case, he is therefore addressing the Tsungli Yamen. This he accordingly did, and his action was approved by the Government. On 6th October the Foreign Office received through the Admiralty Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. BAYMOUR's memorandum and a letter from Commodore POWELL, both agreeing in maintaining that the duty of patrolling the river belongs to China and that pressure must be brought to bear at Peking.

The Commodore points out that the patrol of the river cannot protect goods from robbery on shore. On October 7th a despatch from the Foreign Office to the Admiralty states that Lord SALISBURY would be glad to receive a report from the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station as to the state of affairs. Next follows the correspondence between our Chamber of Commerce, the China Association, and Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE, in which the latter expresses the hope that, taken in connection with the urgent representations to the Chinese Government, the measures adopted by Her Majesty's Government (i.e. the patrol of the river) might eventually result in the suppression of piracy. A letter from Vice-Admiral SEYMOUR to the Admiralty, dated August 31st, details the measures taken and points out that another vessel of the *Sandpiper* class is required and that a third vessel would have a good effect, but says that to police effectually the North and West Rivers, relieving China of her responsibilities in this respect, would take more vessels than were at his command of a suitable type and that the work could be done better and more cheaply by fast steamboats, under control of Water Police. The insufficiency of the patrol of the *Sandpiper*, *Tweed*, and one torpedo-boat is further insisted on in another letter from the Vice-Admiral to the Admiralty. On November 15th a telegram from H.E. Sir HENRY BLAKE was received at the Colonial Office pointing out the intolerable state of the river and the helplessness of China, but suggesting that the Viceroy should still be asked to co-operate. This suggestion was approved. Already on the 9th of the month the Commander-in-Chief had been asked to forward the proposed scheme for a water police force equipped with fast steamers. On December 2nd a telegram was sent by Lord SALISBURY to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD directing him to urge that pressing orders be sent to the Viceroy of Canton to co-operate in the measures to stamp out piracy. With a paragraph in a letter from Vice-Admiral SEYMOUR to the Admiralty, in which he mentions the continued patrol of the river by the *Sandpiper*, *Tweed*, and torpedo-boat No. 36, the Blue Book, so far as it deals with the West River question, closes. The correspondence is most instructive and admirably illustrates the difficulty of dealing with questions of the highest importance when on one side there is Chinese passivity and on the other the apparatus of British official administration. We shall have an opportunity of discussing the result of this labour in, we hope, the not too distant future when the proposed scheme above alluded to is laid before the public.

THE YUNNAN RAILWAY SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 3rd May.)

THERE are not wanting various indications that the question of the Yunnan Railway, otherwise more imposingly called the Burmah-Yangtze Railway, will in the near future occupy a considerable amount of attention from those interested in the securing of the trade of South-western China. It is worth while to look at the communications which passed on this subject between the various parties concerned, as set forth in the new Blue Book on the Affairs of China. It appears in a telegram from the British Legation at Peking to Lord SALISBURY on the 16th September last that the Yunnan Company's agent applied for support in his application for a concession for a railway from the Burmah Railway terminus to Mitu via Kunlong and the Namting Valley;

thence to Hsi Kuan and Tali-fu; also from Mitu to Yunnan-fu, via Chou Hsiang; and, from some point between Tali-fu and Yunnan-fu, a line to the Yangtze River, with the option for the Company to choose any route they please for the latter line. On the 18th September, Lord SALISBURY telegraphed his consent to the application on behalf of the Yunnan Company. On the 11th October Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE replied that the Tsungli Yamen had refused the application, citing the Burmah Convention of 1897 Article XII, and denying that they had made any definite promises at the interview of the 11th April, 1898, beyond a verbal promise to the effect that they would be willing to discuss the question of the extension of the railway into China when it reached the frontier. Lord SALISBURY replied on the 13th that the Chinese Government must be informed that Her Majesty's Government could not admit their freedom to reject the application, in view of the promise of the Tsungli Yamen on the 11th April, 1898. On the same day the secretary of the Yunnan Company wrote to the Foreign Office, drawing attention to the refusal, expressing a hope of strenuous support from the Government, and pointing out that the Company was continuing for another season its survey of the line from Burmah to Szechuan and the Yangtze; receiving a reply that the Legation at Peking had been instructed to support the claim. On the 21st of the month Mr. BAX-IRONSIDE telegraphed to Lord SALISBURY that he had carried out his instructions and that the Tsungli Yamen held firmly to their position; the immediate answer to which, from the Foreign Office, was that Her Majesty's Government adhered to their view and had no intention of abandoning it. At this point the correspondence ceases, as far as the Blue Book is concerned. But there is sufficient to show that the British Government at least did not look with an unfavourable eye on the Company's efforts.

Of the activity of the Yunnan Company there can be no doubt. Merely to read the few reports from their agents and surveyors, which are included in the Blue Book from which the above correspondence is taken, is sufficient to show this. They have persisted in their efforts in spite of the incredulity and discouragement with which their projects have been and are still received by many competent critics. But they have trusted in the judgement of those whom they have employed to report on the country and have held to the opinion, for long considered contrary to the facts of the case, that there is a possible route from Burmah to the heart of Yunnan and beyond. Many, probably a strong majority of those who know something of the country to be traversed, still have grave doubts as to the return to be expected from the railway being sufficient to justify the expenses required for making it. But if the Company is prepared to back its belief and the Government is ready to aid it by exercising pressure on the Tsungli Yamen—for to expect the Government to interest itself directly in the line is, as *The London and China Express* pointed out recently, likely to lead to waste of time—there is reason to trust that not very many years hence we may see a line running to Yunnan-fu and thence into Szechuan. A cheerful correspondent of an Indian paper the other day talked about the approach of a "great world line from Constantinople via Palestine, Persia, India, and Burmah to Hongkong." This of course is ascending into the sphere of dreams, but what dreams may not ultimately come true no one would care to say. The

spur to British railway enterprise in Burmah, the Shan States, and south-western China, has been the Tonkin-Yunnan line on which the French have set their hearts; and by which they hope to capture the trade of the provinces south-west of the Yangtze. British speculators, urged on by the knowledge that they would approach the richer side of the province of Yunnan and that beyond lay the far greater riches of Szechuan, have striven hard not to let French energy anticipate them. What the Yunnan enthusiasts have now to prove is that they are not as wild in their schemes as their critics have declared them and that they can find the money to carry out these schemes. The British Government has displayed a certain willingness to help them by breaking down the stubborn attitude of the Tsungli Yamen. If the idea is as feasible as it is far-seeing the Yunnan Company will have deserved well of their country.

BUTCHERS' MEAT IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 1st May.)

Among the many inconveniences borne by the Hongkong resident, apart from the harassing conditions of climate, may be classed the inferior quality of butchers' meat that forms part of his daily fare. So accustomed has he become to the cocoa-nut fibre of the tissue and the saw-dust flavour of its meagre juices that he accepts the want of quality in the butchers' meat with stoical resignation, dines on make-believe mutton, puts everything down to the climate and never pauses to ask whether such a condition of affairs can be remedied, and meat somewhat of the flavour of butchers' meat in England can possibly be placed upon his table. But the Hongkong resident need not carry his memory back to the time when he sojourned in England or enjoyed a well-spent holiday there to be reminded of succulent juices; a trip to Shanghai and its gastric reminiscences will prove equally effective. The truth is that full-flavoured mutton is unknown in Hongkong, while in Shanghai it is all that the palate can desire. Whence this difference? We are aware that to obtain the fullest and richest flavour of mutton the joint should be hung for some time, a course of procedure in Hongkong, certainly in the summer season, not permissible, but even in the cool season when the joint may, with watching, be hung for several days, the flavour and nutriment of the Hongkong mutton is far inferior to that of meat in the Northern port. And the cause to our mind is not far to seek.

The importation of cattle and sheep, their slaughter and exposure of the meat for sale, are dealt with in "The Cattle Diseases, Slaughter Houses and Market Ordinance" of 1887, and the Bye-laws enacted thereunder. The Ordinance itself is a most excellent one, and from the frequent Bye-laws made under this Ordinance it is perfectly clear that the Government is fully alive to the necessity of endeavouring to furnish to the residents of this colony good and wholesome meat. Under the Bye-laws all cattle and sheep must be landed at certain wharves and between certain specified hours, while schedule A section 3 of the Ordinance reads as follows:—"All cattle and sheep imported into the colony shall be forthwith inspected and duly marked by an Inspector of Live-stock, and any animal which he finds to be diseased or which he may suspect to be suffering from disease shall be placed in segregation and under observation at the depôts set apart for the purpose at Kennedy Town and Yaumati." Schedule B section 2 provides for the marking of cattle and sheep before slaughter and is in the

following terms:—"No cattle or sheep shall be admitted into the slaughter house except those that have been marked within the previous twenty-four hours by an Inspector of Live-stock as being fit for slaughtering for human food." The regulations respecting markets are equally clear and precise. Registration of all market-holders and the due cleanliness of their stalls is provided for, while no flesh meat other than that which has been slaughtered in the slaughter-houses of the colony can be exposed for sale in any market till it has been inspected by an Inspector of Markets and marked by him as being fit for human food.

It is clear, therefore, that when once cattle and sheep have arrived in the colony every precaution is taken and every effort made to expose for sale good wholesome food. The whole of the legislature of the Hongkong Government with respect to the meat-supply appears to us to have been exclusively devoted to cattle and sheep immediately on their landing and subsequently, and totally to ignore the voyage and approach of such animals to the colony before their disembarkation—for we are not aware of any regulations existing in this colony similar to those of the Board of Trade in England, which control the stalling and tending of cattle and sheep while on a voyage and which tend so much to their well-being, security and comfort and to the landing of them in good condition at the port of their destination.

It is a notorious fact that animals of all kinds deteriorate on a voyage, and if neglected particularly so. Sheep which are slaughtered in Shanghai and sheep which are slaughtered in Hongkong are fed on the same pastures and tended with the same care. But what a difference in the quality of the meat! A difference which in some small measure is doubtless due to the voyage, but is mainly due to the neglect with which the animals are treated on the trip down. All the wise regulations of the ordinance above quoted and the bye-laws enacted thereunder cannot bring up the quality of the meat, or restore the sheep to anything like the condition they were in previous to their embarkation at Shanghai. On the voyage they receive no systematic care. No one is specially appointed to tend to the sheep, unless, perhaps, it be the quartermaster, who throws them a little hay once a day and give to the more vigorous a drink of water. The sick are left to perish. The mortality in bad weather is great and even in fine weather the sheep land in Hongkong the ghosts of their former selves. Cruelty, negligent cruelty, exists somewhere. Someone is responsible for much misery to thousands of dumb creatures annually. Is it the Government, the shipper or the shipowner? There is need, urgent need, for legislation in this matter. We have often wondered that there exists no Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Hongkong similar to such as exist in Shanghai and Singapore. The fact is that Hongkong is behind the times. Everybody seems too intent on money-making and has no thoughts for philanthropy or for the care of these dumb animals that appeal to our mercy. As the Commission for the Enquiry into the Costs of Commodities in Hongkong is now sitting, the present seems a favourable moment for bringing the Cattle and Sheep Trade before the notice of the public, for by wise regulations of ship-owners in this matter the mortality among sheep may be decreased, thus enabling mutton to be sold at a reasonable price in Hongkong, and the quality of the flesh improved.

SUPREME COURT.

April 30th.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CHAN KIT SAN AND ANOTHER, APPELLANTS
V. HO FUNG HANG, RESPONDENT.

Mr. Pellock (instructed by Messrs. Denny and Bowley) moved *ex parte* on behalf of the respondent to set aside an order giving the appellants leave to appeal to the Privy Council from the decision of the Full Court delivered on the 14th March, 1900, on the grounds that (1) The decision appealed from was neither a final judgment, decree or sentence, nor a rule or order having the effect of a final or definite sentence (as required by the instructions governing appeals to the Privy Council) and (2) that there is no satisfactory evidence before the Court that such decision was given or pronounced for or in respect of a sum or matter at issue above the amount value of \$500 sterling or that such Decree involves directly or indirectly the title to property or so some Civil right exceeding the value of \$500. The decision against which the appellants had obtained leave to Appeal was to the effect that the Respondents' claim to accounts, &c., was not barred by the Statute of Limitations. This decision was upon a preliminary issue in the suit and did not finally dispose of the case in dispute.

The full Court gave leave to Respondent to give notice of the motion to the Appellants for Tuesday next at 11.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A special general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce was held at the Chamber Rooms, City Hall, to nominate a member of the Chamber to take the place of the Hon. T. H. Whitehead in the Legislative Council during his absence from the colony. Mr. R. M. Gray presided, and there were also present the Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, H. Smith (Committee), R. C. Wilcox (Secretary), Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. F. Maitland, H. M. Bavis G. Atzenroth, D. R. Crawford, J. J. Francis, Geo. L. Tomlin, D. W. Craddock, D. Gillies, G. de Champeaux, L. Berindeague, J. Thurburn, G. T. Veitch, W. M. Watson, D. Haskell, J. A. Mackay, J. H. Lewis, R. L. Richardson, C. S. Sharp, A. M. Marshall, W. Danby, Ho Fook, A. J. Raymond, A. Shelton Hooper, S. D. Setna, Murray Stewart, F. Urbig, D. M. Gilmour, G. H. Potts, G. C. Moxon, D. M. Moses, M. M. Mehta, and E. W. Rutter.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, this meeting, as you are no doubt aware, has been called in consequence of the receipt of a letter from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, which letter I will read to you. It is as follows:—"I have the honour to inform you that I have granted to the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, member of the Legislative Council, nine months' leave of absence from the 14th inst., and that there is, therefore, a vacancy in the Council which I desire should be filled up without delay by one who, like Mr. Whitehead, will represent the interests of the Chamber of Commerce. I have, therefore, to request you to be good enough to call a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at an early date, and to submit to me the name of the gentleman whom the Chamber may desire to be appointed to the vacancy." It will be necessary for some one to be proposed and seconded. If there are more than one nominated election will be by ballot; but if only one is proposed, the gentleman, with your permission, will be elected by a show of hands.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK observed:—The letter from His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, as you have heard, renders it necessary for us to elect some one to represent the Chamber in the local Legislature in the room of Mr. Whitehead, who has gone home on a

well earned holiday. It will perhaps be a little difficult to find any one of so continuous energy as our worthy representative Mr. Whitehead, who during the long period which he has represented the Chamber in the Council has been untiring in his efforts for the public good. I would propose to you, gentlemen, the name of a fitting successor to Mr. Whitehead, viz., Mr. Herbert Smith, the representative of Messrs Butterfield and Swire, who by his well known clearness and independence of mind and general ability is well qualified to represent this Chamber in the Legislative Council of Hongkong. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN, in seconding, said:—Mr. Smith's position in the colony is undeniable. I have had the pleasure of serving with him on the committee of this Chamber for a good many years, and I can testify to the great interest he has always taken in the Chamber. (Applause.)

No other name being submitted, the motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Mr. HERBERT SMITH, in acknowledging the compliment paid to him, said:—I am deeply sensible of the honour you have done me and the firm I am privileged to represent in electing me to act as your representative on the Legislative Council of this colony. I cannot but be conscious that the eulogistic remarks of Mr. Keswick and Mr. Gray are but indifferently deserved, but you may rely upon my best efforts to voice and to worthily uphold the interests of this influential Chamber and of its members. Holding a decided opinion that our policy should be to deal with commercial matters only, I shall hope to keep this point constantly in view. Gentlemen, I thank you and shall endeavour to justify your confidence. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I congratulate you on the election of Mr. Herbert Smith, than whom no one better fitted could have been chosen. I now declare this meeting terminated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of members was subsequently held for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee and passing the Secretary's accounts for the year ended 31st Dec., 1899.

The Minutes of the last annual general meeting having been confirmed,

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen,—I propose that, in accordance with our usual custom, the Report of the Committee and the Secretary's Accounts, which have been in your hands for some days, be taken as read. Our report exhibits no diminution from past years in the number of subjects with which we have to deal and, indeed, rather tends to show that the business of the Chamber is steadily increasing in quantity, and at the same time in importance. The amount of work done, however, needs no apology from me. The voice of Commerce is making itself heard every year with greater emphasis all over the world whether it be by Chambers of Commerce, or Congresses, and as long as these bodies are directed by those engaged in Commerce, and only concern themselves with matters which actually affect the continuance and development of trade, they are undoubtedly an element of good in their own sphere and, for that reason, will always command attention.

The past year can hardly be called one of great progress generally in China, although many schemes have been hatched and some of them have made some strides forward, but, on the whole, the result is disappointing and not up to sanguine anticipations. In Hongkong, however, we have cause for congratulation in the extension of our boundaries to embrace a considerable addition of territory which will prove a most valuable acquisition to the colony when it has had time to find the benefit of a complete system of roads and thorough police protection, which it should be the object of this Government to provide as soon as possible, so as to give encouragement to the natives in the Hinterland to raise produce of all sorts for our markets, and to native capitalists to establish industries under the flag of the British Flag, with the advantage of free circulation and without customs duties. We did not enter into possession without a struggle, but as one outcome of this want of faith on the part of the Chinese Authorities resulted in the abandonment of the idea of leaving the City of

How long in their hands, the temporary trouble resulted satisfactorily in the end.

The inevitable result of the handing over of this territory was the withdrawal of the Chinese Customs stations to the new borders, and it became a question in what way the Hongkong Authorities could reasonably assist the Chinese Government in the protection of their revenue under change of circumstances. As you are aware, this Government, contemplating the establishment of Bonded Warehouses for Opium in the colony, and the provision of certain checks on Opium smuggling, brought in a Bill for this purpose. The Chamber has, however, I hope proved conclusively to the Government that the objects in view could be as readily secured by making the Merchants' Godowns into Bonded Warehouses, by keeping an account of all Opium actually discharged in Hongkong, and also by furnishing the Chinese Customs with particulars of all permits issued for the export of Opium.

In further desire to protect the Chinese Revenue an Ordinance has been passed amending the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, by which great restrictions are placed upon the Export of Arms and Ammunition, somewhat, it is to be feared, to the detriment of the trade of the port in these articles; but the measure is certainly an honest endeavour to act fairly to the neighbouring Empire.

The circulation in this colony of subsidiary coins of the Canton Mint became a subject of complaint, and was brought by the Chamber before the notice of H.E. the Governor, who appointed a committee to enquire into the question, of which I was a member. On going into the facts this committee found that, although no doubt considerable inconvenience was caused by the influx of Canton tokens, there was no legal obligation on anyone accepting them as money in this colony, while there were insuperable objections to any legislation making it illegal to be in possession of them, and if ample supplies of Hongkong subsidiary coins were always obtainable no hardship need be entailed on any one.

From a perusal of the report, you will see that this Chamber has been actively endeavouring to impress upon the public the Imperial Government and the Telegraph Companies concerned, the importance of securing a reduction in the tariff of charges for telegrams between the East and Europe, and with some hope of ultimate success. The question is to be brought up by our representatives at the forthcoming Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held in London next June, when, no doubt, some course of action will be recommended or some decision adopted. It is imperative that, in order to march with the times, this side of the world should be in cheaper communication by cable with the other.

I may here mention that, at the same Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, it has been arranged that Sir Thomas Jackson and the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, who have kindly consented to represent this Chamber there, will also put forward resolutions on the subjects of Navigation by Foreign Steamers of the Inland Waters of China, and of fresh Marine Surveys in Eastern Seas, the latter of which I think it will be generally conceded is much required.

I now come to a subject which has been a theme of considerable discussion, not to my complaint, for several years, and that is the working of the Hongkong Post Office. It is a question which nearly touches us all but which, in spite of all that has been said and written, has not advanced many stages towards ideal perfection. The fact is that, although we can give credit to the management for having done its best during the past year, the accommodation of this department is admitted by every one to be wretchedly inadequate, and the staff, in my opinion, is quite insufficient. The consequence is a defective service which cannot be expected to improve until the conditions are altered. When that time will arrive it seems impossible to say, as the construction of a new Post Office is being indefinitely postponed, or at any rate will probably be delayed until the construction of the projected new Law Courts, the site for which was decided upon years ago, but on which not a single pile for the foundation has yet been driven.

Whether this is caused by the denuded state of the P.W.D. or for any other reason, I really think that upon a subject of such urgent public importance the Government should take immediate steps to have this matter rectified. (Applause.)

Various points of legislation came before your Committee last year. The Pier Ordinance was passed by the Government to enable them to raise the rents of Piers and Wharves, but I am glad to say that the increase first contemplated was greatly modified in consequence of the representations of the Chamber in the year preceding. The efforts of the Chamber to amend the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance were less successful although a few of its suggestions were adopted. The principal suggested alterations, which were the outcome of the careful consideration of shipping experts, were dismissed as impracticable or unnecessary, the Government preferring to listen to the opinion of its own adviser. On the other hand, attention having been directed by the Chamber to the fact that certain goods hitherto not regarded as dangerous were included in that category in the Dangerous Goods Amendment Ordinance, and the suggestion made that these goods should be continued to be excluded from the list, this suggestion was adopted by the Government. I have already referred to the Arms and Ammunition Amendment Ordinance, which was very strongly criticised by those interested in the trade and also by the public and the original draft of which, on the representation of this Chamber, experienced considerable modification before the Bill was passed.

Last year we were subject to all the restrictions and annoyances of being declared an infected port, which continued through the summer months, and it is a subject of great regret that we should find ourselves in a similar predicament again this year. The problem of how to succeed in stamping out the plague has still to be solved, although amelioration can undoubtedly be secured by strong sanitary measures. The loss caused annually to the trade of the Port from this disease is enormous.

The revival by the Canton Government of the farm for the collection of the Lekin in Kwangtung naturally led to expectation of all the abuses which attended the last monopoly, and the Chamber accordingly addressed Her Majesty's Consul at Canton on the subject. Mr. Mansfield, with his usual promptitude, had already made a protest to the Viceroy against the establishment of the Lekin Farm, and, although that Official did not admit that the Farm was an infringement of Treaty Rights, he issued stringent orders against any abuse of their position by the farmers, apparently with some success. The principle of these monopolies is, however, distinctly opposed to the spirit of the Treaties, and their establishment cannot be too strongly deprecated.

That ancient grievance—it is a quarter of a century old—the levy of preferential duties on junk-borne cargo by the Hoppo of Canton, has again come to the front and drew from this Chamber a fresh and strong appeal to Her Majesty's Representative at Peking. Your Committee upon this occasion, as a last resource, strongly recommended the abolition of the dual system of Customs in the Two Kwang, and Mr. Bax Ironside (then in charge) admitted that it would go to the root of the evil, but was himself naturally unable to move directly in the matter. He laid the suggestion, however, before the Foreign Office, and I sincerely hope that when a convenient time arrives, this grain of mustard seed will develop into a goodly tree, and produce that fiscal reform which is so badly needed. (Applause.)

When it was given out with great éclat by Lord Curzon, in the House of Commons, that China had granted the right of navigation of the inland waters to foreign vessels, it was little imagined that this concession would be turned into a farce by the interpretation placed upon the regulations by the Imperial Chinese Customs, but this is unfortunately the case and, as far as the West is concerned, foreign steamers have not benefited in the least, and the expected development in trade from the opening of the Waterways of South China to Steam Navigation has not been realized. This has naturally caused great dis-

appointment and loss to the large shipping companies who have been induced to construct craft specially for the River Service, and who have appealed in vain for a reasonable interpretation of the Regulations which would enable them to benefit by the so-called Concession. I trust that agitation upon this subject will be kept up in Parliament and elsewhere until the Chinese Government are induced to act up to the spirit of the arrangement instead of to the letter only.

A further interference with the development of trade in the Two Kwang has been the outbreak of lawlessness and piracy under the misrule of the late Viceroy, who was probably the worst ruler these provinces have had for many years, and who allowed this state of affairs to increase to such an extent that now it has become so organized that it will require extensive measures to successfully cope with it. The attention of the Chamber was first called to the subject by the attack on the silk trade in districts not far from Canton, and a telegram was despatched early in August to the London General Chamber of Commerce pointing out the unsettled state of the province, the unreliability of the Viceroy, the interference with trade, and the need of more gunboats to protect our interests on the West River. We have to thank the London Chamber for at once bringing the matter before the Foreign Office, but I regret to say that the only outcome was the placing of the old *Tigres*, and a torpedo-boat as a reinforcement to the little *Sandpiper* on the West River, although this Chamber represented strongly to the Hongkong Government the inadequacy of such a force to do anything to really stem the evil. I think it most unfortunate that the Home Government did not see fit to take a serious view of the matter, instead of practically merely looking on, and doing nothing substantial to assist in preventing this crying evil from reaching its present proportions. The latest stage is that all steamers are recommended to keep to one particular channel of the West River entrances which can be specially protected from pirates. This I think is the most eloquent illustration of the present condition of the West River Delta which could be desired, and you will doubtless look with much interest for the effect of the combination between our Naval Authorities and the new Viceroy, which we are told will put down the present unfortunate state of things. (Applause.)

Although the question of the revision of the Treaties on the point of Tariff is not included in the correspondence of the past year, I think that a few words now on the subject would not be out of place. We have the word of our Minister in Peking that no active movement is taking place on this question, and that before anything is done those most deeply interested in it will be consulted. I do not see myself how anything can possibly be done until the whole fiscal arrangements of China are altered in such a manner that we know for certain the exact duties which will be paid. With that guarantee there would be, I am sure, no opposition to a fair increase in the Tariff, which after all would probably leave foreign goods better off in that respect than they are now under the present scale of duties, the indefinite inland taxation (quite against our Treaties), and possibly in these provinces a blackmail tax as well. Until the collection of provincial taxes is merged into the business of the Foreign Customs I do not know in what direction there is the slightest possibility of any reliable guarantee being forthcoming.

Another question not dealt within the Report, but of no small interest to this port, is the Customs Tariff and Regulations in the Philippine Islands. A copy of the new Provisional Tariff and Regulations has reached this Chamber from the Acting British Consul at Manila through the Colonial Government, and this was circulated amongst the members most interested in the trade with the Philippines, but so far we have only received one or two replies. There can be no doubt that the duties levied by the American Authorities are practically the same as those imposed by the Spaniards, and the general opinion, I believe, on the part of ship-owners and masters is that the Customs Regulations are even more stringent and obstructive. I understand, however, that there is a probability

of the early departure from the United States of a Civil Commission to enquire into and institute a permanent system of administration for the Philippines in place of the Military rule hitherto necessitated by circumstances, and it is to be hoped that their recommendations will move towards less onerous taxation and regulations, which will assist instead of interfering with the natural expansion of the trade of these fertile islands. At the Philadelphia Commercial Congress held last October, which was a great success and calculated to have valuable results, among other interesting points brought forward, our representative, Mr. Townsend, dwelt strongly upon this subject and his remarks are well worth attention.

The apparent omission on the part of the Dominion Minister of Customs to include Hongkong in the list of Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire entitled to the benefit of the British Preferential Duties in Canada having been pointed out by the agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, your Committee have addressed the local Government on the subject, and asked His Excellency to bring the matter to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Already some trade has been diverted from Hongkong in consequence of this omission, and in the future such a drawback might have a far wider effect, so it is to be hoped that this matter will soon be rectified.

You are aware how fully we have been represented on the Legislative Council by Mr. Whitehead, who deserves our thanks, and is now on a well-earned holiday, and in whose place for the time being we have just elected Mr. Herbert Smith.

In regard to the Secretaryship, I cannot speak too highly of the care and attention given to the affairs of the Chamber by Mr. Wilcox, whose works, as I have before remarked, is steadily increasing and requiring more and more time and attention. (Applause).

The General Committee has dwindled down to five representatives, four of its members having recently gone home, three of them with the intention of returning, but Mr. McConachie, who has rendered valuable service on the Committee for many years will, I understand, remain at home. It will be for you to-day to elect a new committee as well as a chairman and vice-chairman. The remaining members of the outgoing Committee have agreed to serve again if elected.

The roll of members has gone on increasing. I am glad to say, no less than 15 new members having been elected since last meeting, whose election you will be asked to confirm directly. We have lost three during the year, two by death, one of whom, Mr. Granville Sharp, we all miss here to-day. Mr. Sharp was a regular attendant at these meetings and we always listened with much interest to the trenchant expression of his views, even if we did not entirely coincide with them.

I have again to remark on the still improving financial position of the Chamber. As will be observed by the statement of accounts, our Reserve Fund amounted at the end of the year to \$10,000, and I am glad to inform you that this has since been increased by the addition of \$2,000, taken from the balance at credit, and placed on deposit at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. We have had no opportunity of making use of the Pinnacle Rock Fund.

Having now touched upon most points dealt with in the Report, before proposing its adoption, the Committee will be glad to hear remarks on these or other subjects on which any members present may desire to express opinions. (Applause.)

There being no question or remarks on the report by members, the CHAIRMAN moved that the Committee's report and Secretary's accounts for 1899 be passed.

Mr. RICHARDSON said—Gentlemen, after reading the report issued last week and hearing the speech by our Chairman, we must, I feel sure, each one of us, acknowledge that in one way or another we have received a measure of assistance in the work done by our Committee and very able Secretary in the past year. Our Chairman has just now referred in particular to a few of these questions of interest to us from which I would point out the abolition of the dual system of Customs in the Two Kwang system, of course with the abolition of piracy

—and the navigation by foreign steamers of the inland waters of China. These, I think, are most important for us here, and I hope that during the current year we may see these questions in a fair way to be satisfactorily settled. Our Chairman has also referred to our financial position, which it is pleasing to see is so sound. With these few remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report and the accounts.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NEW MEMBERS.

The CHAIRMAN said he had very much pleasure in proposing the confirmation of the election, since their last annual meeting, of the following members:—Mr. W. S. Bailey (now Messrs. Bailey and Co.), Messrs. McGregor Brothers and Gow, Mr. D. Haskell, Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Messrs. L. Soulfort and Co., Messrs. Banker and Co., Mr. L. A. Levy, Messrs. U. Nervegna and Co., Dr. Jordan, the Deutsche Asiatische Bank, the Imperial Bank of China, Messrs. Hotz & Jacob and Co., Messrs. H. Price and Co.

Mr. HERBERT SMITH seconded, and the motion was carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

The following were elected on the Committee:—Mr. R. Gray (Chairman) the Hon. J. J. Keewick (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. H. Smith, H. M. Bevis, R. L. Richardson, A. M. Marshall, C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, and A. Haupt. This was all the business.

MR. H. E. POLLOCK ON SOME SERIOUS LOCAL PROBLEMS.

At the City Hall on Wednesday evening, the 2nd instant, Mr. H. E. Pollock read a paper before the members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society on "Some serious local problems and a few suggestions for dealing with them." There was a good attendance, H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and Mrs. Gascoigne, Sir John Carrington, Kt, C.M.G. (Chief Justice), and the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman (Attorney-General) being among those present.

The Hon. F. H. May presided. In opening the proceedings he said—Mr. Pollock, who is well known to you, has kindly offered to-night to read us a lecture upon "Some serious local problems and a few suggestions for dealing with them." In this rapidly growing colony there must necessarily be many problems which are not at all easy of solution. I am sure we shall all listen with a great deal of interest to what Mr. Pollock has got to say on this most important and most interesting subject. (Applause.)

Mr. Pollock said—Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose to discuss with you this afternoon some local problems which, as I conceive, imperatively demand a solution, and I shall suggest certain remedies for the present state of affairs; but my chief desire and my chief hope is that some of you who are listening to me now will not rest content until you have thought out and put into motion some remedies of your own, and thus prevent matters from being allowed to drift in the future as they have drifted in the past. The pressing problems which require to be grappled with are difficult ones and we must, therefore, apply our collective wisdom to the task, if success is to be secured.

I will subdivide my subject for the sake of convenience, into three headings, which I will call.

- (1st) The Plague question.
- (2nd) The Food question; and
- (3rd) The Housing of the Working Classes question.

THE PLAGUE QUESTION.

To take these three questions in their order—the plague question is one of supreme importance. It causes not only a considerable annually recurrent expenditure to the Government of this colony and to property owners, but it also involves severe commercial restrictions upon this port by the imposition of quarantine on vessels journeying from here to adjacent places.

No doubt the legislation passed last year was a step in the right direction in that it increased the size of cubicles and also the ventilation coming into houses, but in view of the fact that the plague has become an annually recurrent disease here, it is obvious that no relaxation

of sanitary precautions should be tolerated for a moment, but that on the contrary it behooves us most earnestly to enquire into and discuss and examine every suggestion for the improvement of the sanitary conditions of this city and for the prevention of overcrowding.

The Sanitary Board has done much good work in taking steps to close houses which are unfit for human habitation, but it is becoming a serious question whether a condemnation of certain streets is not required in order to secure a greater circulation of air in the overcrowded quarters of our city.

Even, however, if you consider the causes of plague to be at present too obscure to justify any such wholesale remedy as demolition and reconstruction, I should like to draw your attention to two causes at work in our midst which the mere ordinary man in the street would imagine must form very important factors in propagating and continuing this epidemic in our midst. The first is the presence of night soil in our drains, and the second is the presence of decaying vegetable refuse in our drains. The presence of night soil in considerable quantities in our drains is attested by the last report of the Sanitary Surveyor, Mr. Drury, in which he says—

"Under clause No. 8 of his contract the conservancy contractor is supposed to remove all night soil from the private houses in the Hill District, but in the City, this is done by various irresponsible coolies in places every night or every other night, according to the class of person dealt with; these coolies receive a small payment from the house occupants but none for delivery at the conservancy boat. There is no sanitary staff for the supervision of the removal of night soil during the night, thus rendering the provisions of the contract useless. There being no staff for the supervision of the regular removal of night soil from private houses, to enforce the provisions of the contract, the result is from evidence and observations that in the case of the Hill District soil it is emptied into nullahs, and in the city I find that much of it is emptied down the storm-gullies and drains and it is not to be expected that a Chinese coolie will trouble to remove the soil to the boat if he can safely empty it into a convenient gully—and this after the Government have expended \$275,600 to divert sewage and sullage from the storm drains. I would point out that storm gullies are not trapped and that the gases from the storm drains escape at these points which are situated generally ten feet from some shop or house front; also that this small flow of sewage in the storm drains in the dry season is more harmful than the original full flow which they used to get and which naturally possessed better self-cleansing power; furthermore the sub-soil in the locality of these old storm drains still continues being polluted, and, as Mr. Chadwick prophesied (in his 1882 Report on Sanitation in this Colony), "has now, no doubt, become a hotbed for disease and epidemic." (For further particulars as to misuse of storm drains, vide the Honourable Director of Public Works Annual Report, 1898.)"

That is what the Sanitary Surveyor says in his Official Report dated the 5th August last.

The presence of large quantities of vegetable refuse in our drains is a new terror which has been revealed to us by the recent report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Ladd, in which he says, under the heading, Hawkers:—

"Consequent upon the crowded state of the markets, and the increased demand, the number of so-called hawkers of vegetables has been largely augmented, especially during the past ten years, so much so that many of the bye streets of the city are often blocked up completely by them. These people, who are not hawkers in any sense of the word, simply take up a fixed position where they are least likely to be interfered with by the Police, and remain in the same spot until they have sold off all their wares, disposing of the refuse therefrom by stuffing it down the nearest drain and returning next day to repeat the process. From the decomposition of this vegetable matter gases arise which may become, under certain conditions, highly injurious to public health. These men never have hawked, and never will hawk, their goods in the accepted sense of the word, and in my opinion not one of them should be licensed for this purpose in

the city of Victoria. So long as the present state of things exists, were the staff of the Director of Public Works and the Medical Officer of Health doubled or trebled they could not deal with the subject effectually or prevent the emanation of foul gases which arise from the sewers all over the city, and which are often put down by means of being due to an inefficient drainage system, when all the time much of it is caused by the decaying vegetable matter which has been thrust down the drain in the manner above described. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that such refuse in conjunction with ordinary sewage which gets stopped by it on its course to the sea, forms a nidus or breeding-ground for all kinds of noxious germs, and may be the cause in a great measure of the frequent cases of typhoid fever which have become so common of late years, the bacillus both of typhoid and plague multiplying rapidly in such media."

That is what Mr. Ladds has to say on the subject of vegetable refuse in our drains.

With such substances as night soil and vegetable refuse in our drains it seems hardly a wonder that typhoid is prevalent and that the plague continues amongst us, and, if we cannot put on a sufficient staff of men to guard our drains from these contaminations, it is surely worth while to most seriously reconsider the question of providing for the regular and systematic flushing of them either by pumping up sea-water for the purpose or else by means of small reservoirs filled by certain mountain streams which at present run to waste.

I should like next to say just a few words upon the subject of house-to-house visitation.

It seems to me that, in order that such a procedure should attain its objects, namely, the discovery of the sick persons in the houses, it is necessary that a really large staff of searchers should be put on and that they should be allowed by law to commence work at an earlier hour than 8 o'clock in the morning and I would suggest that the present time, before the plague has taken a good hold, is just the period when the most strenuous efforts should be made.

Another question which appears worthy of consideration is whether some stricter Police supervision of infected areas is not required, especially in the early morning. Last year something like 500 persons who were dead or dying of plague, were found in our streets, and in most cases it was impossible to trace the houses from which they had come, and the result was that the houses from which those people had come were not disinfected and remained as breeding grounds for plague. An efficient patrol in the early morning would appear to be the most effective way of dealing with this difficulty. Strict police supervision along the Praya, in order to prevent persons suffering from plague from being secretly removed from this colony without the sanitary authorities having any clue as to their last place of residence, appears also to be very desirable from the same point of view.

Another matter in connection with the plague appears to me to be worthy of consideration and that is the question whether it would not be advisable to erect on the other side of the Harbour a plague removal settlement like those which have been instituted in some parts of India, that is to say a collection of buildings or match-sheds into which the residents of a badly infected plague district could be removed *en bloc*. I believe from what I have read about such experiments in India, that such wholesale removal of the inhabitants from a badly infected area has been not unfrequently attended with beneficial results, and I understand that it answered well when it was tried here in 1894.

I desire next to draw your attention to the fact that the starting of any new industry in this colony, which is of such a nature as to involve the employment of several hundred coolies, tends to increase overcrowding in this already overcrowded city and consequently tends to lower our level of sanitation. I must confess that it seems to me that, before any new industry involving the employment of numerous labourers is sanctioned in this colony, some steps should be taken by the government to see that the fresh coolies who will be required for such new industry have some special accommodation provided for them somewhere outside of this city. Such a step seems to me to be rendered necessary not merely by those sanitary considerations which I am now discuss-

ing, but also by the house-rent question which I shall deal with presently. Now, to give a concrete illustration of what I mean, I would draw your attention to the fact that a very large work is just being begun in this colony, namely the reclamation in front of the Naval Yard, which will probably involve the importation of several hundred fresh coolies into this colony from outside. Those numerous coolies will most of them be employed regularly and not merely by the day, and I must say that it seems to me most desirable, both from the sanitary question and also from the rent question, that lodgings should be built for these coolies either somewhere across the Harbour, or at least somewhere outside the City limits, instead of allowing them to come in and swell our population of over 800 persons per acre in No. 5 Health district.

The Hongkong Government could, I imagine, obtain a sufficient return on their money by charging a moderate rent.

A cheap and regular ferry service should be established in conjunction with the erection of those buildings for coolies, so as to make the scheme complete.

I have now dealt with a few points which have struck me as especially worthy of consideration from the point of view of suppressing the plague. Subsequent speakers will probably be able to throw a more perfect light upon the question than I have done.

THE FOOD SUPPLY OF THE COLONY.

A very few words will suffice to deal with the next local problem, namely, the food supply question; because the Government has recently appointed a strong representative Committee to deal with that matter and we may hope for some good result from their labours.

I only desire to say upon this question that I hope that Mr. Ladds' recommendation in his recent report will be carried out, as to encouraging the inhabitants of the New Territory by loans or otherwise to breed cattle and swine. The promotion of such a scheme would considerably assist us not only in peace but also in time of war.

THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

I now come to the last point in my address to you, and that is the Housing of the Working Classes question. To my mind this is a most pressing problem. I am sorry to say that, so far as I can gather, there is a land boom on in this city and that land boom is being accompanied by an extraordinary increase of rents all over the central part of the city. I look upon such a general rise in rents as nothing short of an actual calamity from the point of view of the poorer classes of this colony, European as well as Chinese. To remedy this evil, so far as the Chinese are concerned, and the consequent overcrowding and insanitary conditions which it leads up to, I would suggest that, in addition to those measures for dealing with the coolies to be employed in the naval yard extension which I have already advocated, all coolies who are in the employment of Government contractors should be housed by the Hongkong Government, either on the unbuilt portion of Taipingshan or across the Harbour.

It will, of course, be objected, as I have already mentioned, that it is wrong to compete with private enterprise in this way; but would you be surprised to hear that that very same argument was brought before a Royal Commission in England in 1884 and rejected by a majority of the members, and that that very same argument has been urged before the British Parliament itself and has failed? Let me beg all of you, who have the opportunity of doing so, to read a most interesting and instructive article in the February number of the *National Review* on the London Housing Problem. I have only time now to give you a few extracts, but I hope that some of you will pursue the study of the question for yourselves. The article in question contains the following comments upon the attitude which the Imperial Parliament has taken up with reference to this question.

"In 1890 Parliament adopted the view of the majority of the Royal Commission, and placed in the hands of the metropolitan authority the very powers to which exception had been taken, and in 1899 Parliament endorsed its previous action, and went a step further, by entrusting the same powers to the council. The policy of

the Legislature seems, therefore, clearly determined, and the duty of giving effect to it was enforced by Lord Salisbury last year in a speech upon the London Government Bill. Addressing the House of Lords, the Prime Minister said:—

"The difficulty of the conditions is that the ordinary economic laws do not come into play. You are yourselves obliged constantly to destroy vast masses of poor men's dwellings, and every effort to provide an adequate substitute has hitherto, I am afraid, been a failure. The London County Council has undertaken part of the duty; but it will not be only on the London County Council that this duty will fall, the duty of providing—I will not say of providing, but of striving to provide—adequate lodging for the vast multitudes who inhabit this city. It is one of the principal duties which these municipal bodies will have to perform."

Part I of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 enables any sanitary authority to clear any unhealthy areas, but I would especially draw your attention to the fact that the sanitary authority is obliged by the act to provide accommodation for at least as many persons of the working classes as may be displaced by such clearance, except that a Secretary of State may, on the application of the Sanitary authority, dispense with such obligation to an extent not exceeding one half of the persons displaced.

It will be seen therefore that under the Act, any scheme for the improvement of the sanitary condition of an unhealthy area involves the provision, by the authorities, of adequate accommodation for the tenants displaced or in special cases, as for instance when some accommodation may already be available in the immediate neighbourhood, for at least one half of the persons so displaced; and my suggestion therefore that the Government of this colony should provide housing accommodation for a proportion of the teeming mass of our Chinese population is no new idea in sanitary administration, but on the contrary is a natural corollary to the resumption and clearance by the Government of a large insanitary area in Taipingshan.

I need hardly say that, in advocating this competition by the Government in the providing of lodgings for certain classes of coolies, I am actuated by no animosity against the landlord class. It is very natural, and I recognize it as perfectly natural, that they should, there being such a great demand for living accommodation in this city in comparison with the supply, charge a high rent for the occupation of premises belonging to them.

My point, however, is that matters have now arrived at such a stage that some steps are necessary to counteract the present tendency for rents still further to increase.

When anybody buys up any of the articles of food which are necessary to life to so great an extent as to extravagantly raise the price of such commodity, we speak of a corner in such a necessary of life being created, and such a corner in any species of necessary is universally recognized as a very great evil, as witness the recent appointment by the Government of this colony of a Committee upon the price of food here.

Well, I confess, that it seems to me that house room is almost as much a necessity of life as food, and that a corner in houses is practically as great an evil as a corner in food; and remember that this corner in houses, which has come about more or less accidentally, is just as unpleasant for tenants as if it had been brought about by premeditated design.

If you go with me so far and agree with me that this corner in houses, this abnormal and extraordinary rise in house-rent which has lately developed and which is threatening to still further develop in the near future, unless some timely steps are taken to counteract it, is an evil, then surely it is perfectly legitimate for us (and we do no wrong to the landlords) to look round for some means of remedying the evil.

And what more natural remedy can suggest itself to us than a similar one to that which has commended itself to the wisdom and intelligence of the Imperial Parliament and which has been sanctioned by the Legislature of the mother country?

That there exists a general feeling, amongst thoughtful men, that something must be done is, I think, sufficiently evidenced by a most remarkable document which has recently come

into prominence. The document which I refer to is a memorandum suggesting the formation of a strong committee for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of this city. That memorandum is signed by Mr. May, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Osborne, the first two of whom have had considerable experience in grappling with the plague, and can therefore claim to speak with some authority as to the needs of this place.

You will find that document, and the covering letter to it, published in the newspaper of the 15th February, and I hope that you will read it for yourselves, because it is well worthy of perusal and study.

Broadly speaking the scheme which is suggested is that an influential body of men should be constituted into a Trust, with power to borrow money, to acquire land, and to sell or dispose of property. That Trust body is to have power to deal with an unhealthy area by preparing a scheme for its improvement, and for the formation of such streets and open spaces as may be necessary for such improvement. It is also proposed that the Government should contribute annually to the Trust 5 per cent. of the rates collected and 25 per cent. of the premia derived from land sales in each year, and further that the Government should make over to the Trust for a fixed period of 99 years such portion of the reserved area of Taipingshan as has not been sold, so much of Tai Kok Tsui Bay as has not been sold, and half the available building area on the south side of the Shaukiwan Road between the Eastern extremity of the Queen's Recreation Ground and Shaukiwan Village, this latter area to be first laid out in blocks and each alternate block to be assigned to the Trust. The Trust is also to reclaim, where it seems expedient and to lay out the above areas in building sites, streets and open spaces and is to lease such sites for periods which may extend to 99 years, at the end of which the properties are to revert to the Government. Such are, in outline, the main provisions of the Trust scheme, and it seems to me that they are well worthy of consideration though, no doubt, they would require some modification in matters of detail.

To mention one matter only, which is dealt with by the above scheme, it would be a great point gained to have some of the premia from land sales set aside annually for a useful public purpose, instead of having them all treated, as they are now, as regular annual income.

Possibly the best practical steps for the Government to adopt now with regard to that Trust Scheme would be to follow the same course as it has adopted with regard to the food question, that is to say, to appoint a strong representative Committee to consider the scheme.

I have already made some suggestions with regard to the housing of the poorer Chinese, and I now pass on to make a few remarks upon the housing of the Europeans in the lower posts in the Government service. Can it be believed that whilst on the one hand our Police are provided with lodgings, on the other hand our sanitary and market inspectors and overseers are left absolutely unprovided for in the matter of accommodation, many of them living scattered about in the crowded Chinese quarters of this city? Surely this is a matter which only requires to be realized, in order to be remedied. Surely it will prove easy enough, at no considerable increase of expense beyond the lodging allowance made to some of these men, to provide these Government employees with proper buildings in which they will be able to live together and develop some degree of comfort and esprit de corps. Why should not lodgings be built for them on the upper part of the unbuilt-on portion of Taipingshan?

Finally, I want to say just a few words more to you by way of conclusion.

I sincerely hope that you will not imagine, because I have ventured to, perhaps somewhat dogmatically, give you my opinions as to the remedies for some of our local troubles, that I am so conceited as to suppose that my suggestions are insusceptible of improvement. The most I can claim for myself is that I have spent some time in thinking over these problems of ours.

It may well be the case that many important considerations have escaped my notice, and I shall be very glad indeed to have any errors, into which I may have fallen, pointed out to me.

The Hongkong Odd Volumes Society was originally instituted for the purposes of debate and discussion, and criticism is almost always valuable.

My object in addressing you has been to call you into consultation with me concerning these defects in only local matters, and to induce you to take some active steps towards the amendment of those defects.

If a considerable body of you are in earnest, depend upon it something can be done.

We are all of us, I fear, a little too apt to neglect these public questions and to look upon Hongkong as a place to which we come for a limited period of years with the object of scraping together a certain sum of money and then retiring, and we do not much care perhaps whether we leave any permanent trace of our presence behind or not. I hope and believe, however, that some of you will not let these questions drop until some effective remedies be found for dealing with them.

In the words of Ruskin, I would say to each one of you, "Improve the existing state of things you have to do with; to improve them, you must know them; and, as you improve them, you will improve yourself."

Mr. FRANCIS thanked Mr. Pollock for his paper, adding that it was such a paper as any one who knew him would expect from him—a carefully thought out and sensible paper by a man who had evidently given close attention to the questions with which they had to deal in this colony. He was very much pleased, and he supposed Mr. May would be also to hear that the methods which he and Mr. May adopted in 1894 in connection with the committee of the Sanitary Board which dealt with plague were those which now after some years met with the approval of Mr. Pollock and he presumed also with the approval of many other persons. They did their best in 1894 to institute a careful and effective search, and succeeded to a very great extent in removing patients in the earlier stages. They had considerably fewer dead bodies found in the streets; considerably fewer cases in which they were not able to trace the locality from which they came; and this was only effected by getting a really abnormal number of searchers. They had the assistance of Volunteers from the civil community and had practically the whole strength of the Garrison placed at their disposal. With reference to the suggestion that districts affected with plague should be cleared out and the inhabitants taken elsewhere, that was precisely what the Sanitary Board did in respect of Taipingshan. That was Mr. May's individual suggestion and was carried out by his own vigorous hard work. Some 4,000 people were removed from the Taipingshan district, and yet he believed they had not more than six cases of plague among them after their removal to the new district, whereas before their removal there were cases—sometimes three or four—in every house. These outbreaks of plague seriously affected the commerce of the colony, and if a rival port had to be opened trade might be diverted to it, and then nothing they could possibly do would bring it back again. As Mr. Pollock had said, there was hardly anything more intimately connected with the sanitation of the colony than the question of house accommodation. Within the last 15 days he had been consulted by people residing in one of the most central streets in the city in consequence of their rents having been raised 100 per cent. A man who hitherto had paid \$30 per month for his shop had had notice that his rent would be raised to \$50, and so on. As he was coming down in the car that morning he was told that the German Basil Mission boarded out a number of children. Chinese families had been in the habit of receiving children for some time. These families had paid about \$4 per floor but their rents had been raised to \$28. When the landlord was questioned he said that owing to the influx of people into the district he was able to get \$58 per floor if he wished. There was but one remedy for this state of affairs. Ordinary economic conditions which made competition a remedy did not apply to this colony, and the Government should step in in some shape or form. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. S. HAMILTON-SMYTH, touching on Mr. Pollock's remarks as to the influx of

coolies, said that in addition to the naval yard extension other large works were to be started further east, so that the number of coolies in the colony must necessarily be increased. It was generally recognised at home in case of large works that it was really a matter of profit to provide proper housing and proper accommodation for the worker, and he mentioned the case of the Birmingham corporation which, when carrying out large water works in Wales, laid out a complete camp, providing sanitary huts on well drained ground.

Dr. HARSTON, in alluding to the Sanitary Board's limewashing crusade, declared that instead of putting a stop to the plague it was the means of spreading it. When a house was ordered to be limewashed the furniture was moved all over the place; dust was raised; and as the people went about with bare feet they got abrasions in the lower extremities and were inoculated at once by plague bacilli. The Sanitary Board would do far more good if they cleansed these places with some strong antiseptic instead of limewashing. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. CLARK said he was fully in accord with almost every thing Mr. Pollock had said. Most of the subjects touched upon were subjects which had been thought out by members of the Sanitary Board and others interested in sanitation. Dr. Harston had sprung a most startling theme upon them. It had generally been laid down in India as an axiom that lime-washing was one of the best preventatives of plague, and if, as Dr. Harston suggested, it was rather the means of propagating the plague it behoved the Sanitary Board and the Government to at once reconsider the matter, to go fully into the question, and if they had been wrong in the past to alter their procedure for the future. He might say that every house which they knew had been infected with plague was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with the strongest possible disinfectants. He took it, therefore, that Dr. Harston's suggestion applied to the general lime-washing done twice a year by the owners of tenement houses. He did not know whether Dr. Harston would suggest that the Sanitary Board should thoroughly cleanse and disinfect every such house in the colony twice a year. However, this was a matter which could be discussed, and he had not the slightest doubt that the Sanitary Board would be glad if Dr. Harston would give them more fully his views on the subject. Mr. Pollock touched upon the presence of night soil and vegetable matter in the drains. He wanted them to understand that the drains referred to by Mr. Pollock were the storm drains. Of course the sewers were constructed to carry night soil, vegetable refuse, or any other noxious matter, but the storm drains were not so constructed, having untrapped outlets every hundred yards or so into the public streets. This was the result of their dual system of drainage, the wisdom of which it was now too late to discuss. The only thing to do was to make the system as perfect as possible and to prevent as far as possible the introduction of foul matter into the storm drains. Mr. Drury had suggested the payment of the coolies on delivery as an inducement for them to carry the night soil to the boats instead of emptying it into the drains. As to hawkers, if they refused to allow them in the streets they would be increasing the price of food supply in the colony, which was one of the most difficult problems they had to deal with.

Dr. HARSTON remarked that only the previous day he was talking to a member of the Sanitary Board and this gentleman told him that the very houses infected with plague at Wanchai had been limewashed by the Sanitary Board. The Sanitary Board might just as well throw the money spent on limewashing into the street. If they were going to do anything let them use strong antiseptics.

Mr. FRANCIS in alluding to the hawking question, said the whole mischief was caused by the Government limiting the sale of certain food to certain places in the colony. It was provided by Ordinance that certain articles of food could only be sold in the markets, and the result was that the price of food had gone up.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said he was sure they had all listened with a great deal of interest and had derived a great deal of benefit from the

excellent lecture which Mr. Pollock had been good enough to deliver and the very interesting discussion which had ensued. There were one or two points he would like to refer to. The hawkers were a very old friend of his. He had had a good deal to do with him ever since he took charge of the police. Although the sale of certain food was restricted in the markets the sale of vegetables was not. The Government had licensed shops outside the markets for the sale of vegetables, but the trouble was that rents in the colony were so fearfully high that the ordinary coolie could not afford to buy his vegetables in a shop or in the market. He could only afford to buy them from the hawkers in the streets. Therefore, if they got rid of the hawkers they must provide sufficient market accommodation to enable the hawker to take a stall in the market and sell his vegetables there. That was the only real solution to the matter. If they drove the hawker out of the streets, as he had been frequently asked to do, the coolies, and the poorer coolies among the Chinese would suffer very severely. (Hear, hear.) He was quite sure that when his good friend Mr. Francis as chairman of the Committee on the Food Supply, came to enquire closely into the question he would see that the solution was the one which he had referred to. With regard to plague, Mr. Francis's figures were quite correct as regarded the people who were removed from Taipingshan. He thought Mr. Pollock's suggestion was an admirable one. The best way he knew of to rid a particular town or district of plague, if it was really badly infected, was to remove the people to a place where they could get fresh air and sunlight. With regard to the finding of dead bodies in the street, the best remedy he could think of for that was the institution of a permanent Chinese plague hospital. He remembered that during the plague of 1897, when the construction of a Chinese plague hospital was not much in favour and when the number of bodies found in the streets was large, he had the honour to point out the mistake which was being made, and at his suggestion the Sanitary Board moved the Government to allow a Chinese plague hospital to be opened. Permission was given and the number of dead bodies found in the street at once diminished. At the present time there was no Chinese plague hospital in existence. If the plague were to become very bad and the hospital at Kennedy town were to be filled no doubt one would be opened, but there ought to be a permanent one. Then the Chinese would not be so fearful of going into the hospitals and would not die in their houses and be found dead in the streets. Mr. Pollock had mentioned the proposed Trust. Some of them might think that because His Excellency the Governor, no doubt for good and sufficient reasons, could not support the formation of the Trust, the thing was dead; but he had much pleasure in saying that it was not so. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government authorised him only the previous day to address a letter to the Sanitary Board asking them to prepare a scheme of such sanitary improvements in the colony as they considered at the present time necessary. (Hear, hear.) That was a course which His Excellency the Governor, who was now absent from the colony, had himself approved of. Therefore they had asked the Sanitary Board to prepare a scheme—and he had no doubt that the Sanitary Board would do so—and they had the Officer Administering the Government in favour of such a scheme being prepared, and he could assure them that Sir Henry Blake would also be extremely glad to see such a scheme. But he would like to remind them that that was not enough. In sanitary matters no Governor could make any headway in legislation unless he carried public opinion with him. (Hear, hear.) He must have a strong backing, and he must say that in this colony the Governor did not always get sufficient backing when it came to sanitary legislation. He might point to the fact that the latest addition to the statute book in connection with sanitary matters—the Insanitary Properties Bill—took very nearly three years before it passed the Legislative Council. He did not think that the Government officials or the Sanitary Board were responsible for that delay. He attributed it in a great degree

to the apathy of the general public. He thoroughly endorsed Mr. Francis's remark that the real want of this colony was more room, and if the Sanitary Board would go over the points made by Mr. Francis and show the Government how certain things can be done he had not the slightest doubt that the Government would do their best to carry out the scheme. (Applause.)

His Excellency Major-General GASCOIGNE said he should just like to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Pollock for his most interesting lecture. He felt sure they would all agree with him and sympathise with him when he told them that he came there not intending to say anything. He was only *locum tenens* for the matter of three months, and therefore he felt it was his place rather to listen most attentively to anything which was said rather than to say anything. However, he might tell them that every one of the things named that day would certainly, during the short time he had the honour of administering the Government, have all possible attention he could give them. (Applause.) Having said that much, he must say he thought they owed a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Pollock for having come forward in the way he had done and given them such an exceedingly interesting lecture. He could not help thinking that Mr. May had struck the right note and that as to whether certain things should be done did not rest with any Governor or Acting Governor, but with the public. They might depend upon it that if they really were in earnest to see reforms carried out no power in the world could prevent their getting them or would desire to prevent their getting them. In conclusion His Excellency said he was sure they would all agree with him in heartily giving their expression of thanks to Mr. Pollock for his able and most interesting lecture. (Applause.)

The Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, in seconding, said he thought they had all derived very much profit from the paper.

The meeting then separated.

THE CITY HALL.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The annual meeting of the shareholders and subscribers in connection with the City Hall was held on the 1st inst. There were present the Hon. J. J. Keswick (chairman), Messrs H. E. Pollock, N. A. Siebs, H. N. Mody, B. Layton (Hon. Treasurer), and F. B. L. Bowley (Acting Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen—The report and accounts are presented to you somewhat later than last year, owing to various reasons which I need not trouble you with, but in now presenting them I think you will agree with me that they are on the whole as satisfactory as the nature and circumstances of the institution would permit. The City Hall (with its theatre and rooms generally) is devoted to the public good as far as practicable on terms which simply pay expenses without making a profit out of it, and in that respect it has served useful public purposes. The report sets out very fully all details regarding the Library, Theatre, Museum, etc., and I need not recapitulate what it contains, but you will be glad to note the extended hours to which the Library is kept open, and we hope that this will meet a want in affording many occasional visitors, strangers, and especially members of the Mercantile Marine, opportunity to have a quiet hour's reading when they are so disposed, and it is a striking fact that since the Library was opened for these extra hours the number of daily visitors has numbered nearly four times what they did before. Mr. Pollock deserves a vote of thanks for the suggestion he made to so extend the hours and for his liberality in giving a donation of \$500—to assist expenses in lighting, books, &c. (Applause.) There appears to be nothing further which I need remark upon, and I beg to propose that the Report and accounts be adopted and passed.

Mr. Mody seconded, and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

The following is the report:

The last annual meeting was held on the 3rd January, 1899.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

Since the last meeting the Hon. J. J. Keswick has returned to the colony and resumed his post of Chairman on the departure of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving. The Committee have to report with much regret the loss sustained by the sudden death of Mr. H. L. Dalrymple, who has been a member of the Committee for 20 years. Mr. H. E. Pollock has been appointed to fill the vacancy. The Committee now consists of the Hon. J. J. Keswick (Chairman), Messrs. H. N. Mody, B. Layton (Hon. Treasurer), N. A. Siebs, and H. E. Pollock. Mr. H. L. Dennys (Secretary, &c.) went home on leave in June.

THE STATE OF THE BUILDING.

The building was thoroughly inspected by the Architects, Messrs. Palmer and Turner, in October, 1899, and they report all the main timbers to be in a sound condition. Sundry subsidiary timbers, principally in the verandah, had to be renewed on account of the attacks of white ants, and one of the small domes required extensive repairs from the same cause.

The whole of the exterior of the building has been scraped and colour-washed and all the venetians repaired and varnished at a total cost of \$1,000 (including architect's fees).

This expenditure falls into the present year's account.

The expenditure on repairs during the twelve months ending 30th June, 1899, amounted to \$1,988.66, including \$700 contributed towards the alterations in the Theatre referred to in the last report, to which the Amateur Dramatic Club contributed a similar sum.

The interior of the Theatre, the halls, staircases and entrance halls will soon require to be re-decorated.

Owing to the heavy expenditure on alterations and repairs during the year ending June 30th, 1899, the year's expenses exceed the receipts by a small sum.

USE OF THE THEATRE, ETC.

During the twelve months from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899, the Theatre was engaged by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, the School's Sports Committee, the Dramatic Company of H.M.S. *Powerful*, the Dagmar Comedy Co., Messrs. Dallas and Musgrave, and others. The St. Andrew's Hall was used for concerts and musical entertainments and the Ball Room suite was let for several Balls. The St. Andrew's Hall and other rooms were as usual placed at the disposal of educational and charitable establishments for examinations, prize distributions and bazaars, free of charge.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

A fine portrait of Her Majesty the Queen has, through the generosity of Sir Thomas Jackson, who presented the picture to the Hongkong community, been placed in St. George's Hall.

The portrait was unveiled by H.E. the Governor at the St. Andrew's Ball on 30th November, 1899, in the presence of one of Her Majesty's grandsons, H.I.H. Prince Henry of Prussia and the other guests of the St. Andrew's Society, and it now adds greatly to the appearance of the Hall.

THE LIBRARY.

The proprietors of the *Government Gazette*, the *Daily Press*, the *China Mail*, the *Hongkong Telegraph* and *O'Extremo Oriente* have to be thanked for continuing to supply their journals gratis to the Library. Sir John Carrington, Colonel Wheeler, Dobrok, and Messrs. Figg and H. L. Dennys have kindly contributed books to the Library, to which Mr. H. L. Dennys has also lent over 200 volumes dealing with China and the Chinese. The Hongkong Club has supplied back numbers of the *Times*, and Mr. H. A. Allen "Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper." Copies of fifty-nine volumes published in Hongkong have been supplied by Government, of these the majority are educational or devotional pamphlets in Chinese or Latin published by the various missions in Hongkong.

About 7,000 persons visited the Library during the twelve months under review. The Library is now open until 11 p.m. free to all nationalities every day of the week except Sunday, and is likely to prove a convenience to many people. Mr. Pollock and other friends have to be thanked for books and pamphlets contributed by them. Mr. Pollock has also generously pro-

minged to contribute a sum of \$500 towards the purchase of standard works for the Library.

THE MUSEUM.

The Museum has been kept up as usual, want of funds and space preventing its development or improvement. The Hon. E. R. Bellios, Capt. Chichester, R.N., Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. C. Ford, Niedhardt, Gale, Drury, Bryer, Edward, Mounsey, Cattaneo, H. L. Dennys, Bertie Sayer, James Mitchell, Wai Tsit Sing and Wong Kam Fook and Miss Barker have to be thanked for presenting or lending various interesting specimens, including an Insurgents' cannon from the Philippine Islands, an antelope and numerous birds and snakes. An Atlas moth kindly presented by Capt. Hall produced a large family, which was carefully reared in the Museum and resulted in the addition of a number of fine specimens. During the year 9,462 Europeans, Americans, and other non-Chinese, and 111,676 Chinese, visited the Museum.

ACCOUNTS.

The balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer on 30th July, 1899, when the accounts up to 30th June, 1899, were closed, was \$2,706.55, as appears by the accounts annexed; showing a loss on the year's working of \$35.68. There is also a reserve fund consisting of \$13,621.69 on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, including interest up to 24th June, 1899.

The total receipts show a falling off from the previous year owing to the smallness of the number of travelling companies visiting the colony.

J. J. KESWICK,
Chairman,
City Hall Committee.

ACCOUNT SHOWING RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM 1st JULY, 1898, TO 30th JUNE, 1899.

To balance in hands of Treasurer as shown by last report	\$ 2,742.23
To receipts from Theatre, Ball Room, St. Andrew's Hall, &c., &c.	\$ 6,259.05
To rent of Chamber of Commerce	600.00
To Government Grant for 1899	1,200.00
	\$ 8,059.03
To interest on current account in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to 30th June, 1899	42.60
	\$ 8,101.63
By salaries and wages for 12 months to 30th June, 1899	\$ 3,535.00
By repairs and alterations, general	1,238.00
By half cost of altering Theatre	700.00
By Gas	1,104.24
By electric light	322.83
By Museum and office expenses	333.85
By insurance premia	701.00
By Government fire brigade	81.75
By water	72.45
	\$ 8,137.33
By balance in hands of Treasurer July, 1899	2,706.55
	\$ 10,843.88

THE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE H.M.S. "TERRIBLE."

A meeting was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, the 1st May, 1900, at 5 p.m., to consider the reception of the captain, officers and men of H.M.S. *Terrible*.

The following gentlemen were present at the meeting, which was convened at the instance of the Committee of the China Association and the Navy League:—

Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., the Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., the Honourable J. J. Keswick, the Honourable Herbert Smith, Mr. Bovis, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. M. Gray, Captain Anderson, Mr. A. Chapman, Mr. R. Cooke, Mr. A. M. Marshall, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. R. L. Richardson, Mr. M. W. Slade and Mr. C. S. Sharp.

Sir John Carrington was voted into the chair.

Certain proposals for the reception of H.M.S. *Terrible* and for the entertainment of her captain, officers and men were then discussed, a discretion as regards certain items being left to a Sub-committee of seven gentlemen selected out of the above Committee, with power to add to their number.

The general feeling appeared to be that a sum of about \$5,000 would be required, and the Honourable C. P. Chater kindly consented to act as Hon. Treasurer for the Fund.

Mr. H. E. Pollock was appointed Hon. Secretary.

The ship is expected to arrive in the Harbour on Tuesday, the 8th of May, at 5 p.m., and the following programme has so far been arranged, subject to the approval of the authorities:—

Launches containing ladies and gentlemen to go out beforehand in the direction of Lyceum and to escort the *Terrible* to her moorings.

Men-of-war and merchant vessels will be invited to dress ship.

After the *Terrible* has been at her buoy for half an hour or so, an address is to be presented on board by a deputation on behalf of the British community.

For Wednesday, the 9th May, the following programme has been suggested, namely, a Review of the crew of the *Terrible* on the new Parade ground about 5 p.m. by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, with the Hongkong Volunteers in attendance as a guard of honour.

In the evening of the same day, the men will be entertained at a dinner at the City Hall, which will be followed by a Smoking Concert in the Theatre.

The Captain and Officers of the *Terrible* will be entertained at a Fête on the Cricket Ground, on a date to be hereafter fixed.

On the afternoon of Saturday, the 12th May, Athletic Sports (with gymkhana variations) will be held.

The following gentlemen, in addition to those mentioned above, have been invited to join the Committee, namely, Mr. D. Gillies, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Lawson, Mr. J. McKie, Mr. Molton R.N., Mr. E. A. Ram, Mr. G. H. Sexton, Mr. R. F. Walwyn, R. W. F., and Mr. W. N. Wickham.

TROUBLE ABOUT CHAIR COOLIES AT THE PEAK.

At the Magistracy on the 27th ult., before Mr. Gompertz, Mr. H. W. Bell, of "Dunford," the Peak, was summoned by Yeung Tao and Yu Kwong, chair coolies in the employ of Mr. H. W. Robertson, of the "Chalet," the Peak, for assault. Mr. Gedge appeared for the complainants and Mr. O. E. Thomson for the defendant.

Yeung Tao said that on the 24th April he assisted to carry his master to the Tram Station in a chair. When close by Dr. Rennie's house, as he was coming back, he met the defendant, who struck him on the left leg with a stick. He did not know why. He did not get in the defendant's way or annoy him in any way. He had never annoyed him. The defendant also struck his (withness's) *foki's*. He followed the defendant to the Tram Station in order to report the matter to his master and to find a constable.

In reply to Mr. Thomson, the witness said he had never gone into the defendant's compound. He did not know if any of his *fokis* had. He had never spoken to Mrs. Bell. He did not know whether one of his *fokis* rushed into Mr. Bell's house on the morning of the 24th ult.

Yu Kwong corroborated. Replying to Mr. Thomson, he said he did not go into Mr. Bell's house on the morning in question.

Indian Police Constable No. 691 spoke of the complainants having complained to him that the defendant had assaulted them.

Mr. Robertson said his coolies carried him to the Tram Station on the morning in question, as described by them. He was subsequently told that his coolies were in a row, and he went out and found them with a Sikh policeman. The coolies pointed out the defendant, and he questioned him. The defendant said his coolies had been very cheeky of late and had tampered with his letter box, and when asked how he knew his coolies had done the damage the defendant replied "I know, and that is enough." Subsequently the defendant came to him and said,—"Robertson, if your coolies come into my compound again I will break every bone in their bodies." Witness told him not to lose his temper, whereupon the defendant threatened the coolies again. Witness told him that if he did what he threatened he was sure to be summoned, and the defendant

replied, "By—if you don't think I can take care of myself I will go for you next." Witness told him not to be a silly ass and they parted.

In reply to Mr. Thomson, witness said he had had no complaints made to him by the police about his coolies.

A cross-summons was then heard, Mr. Bell having summoned the coolies for disorderly behaviour at 9 a.m. on the 24th ult.

Mr. Thomson said that for the past two or three months the complainants in the other case had been in the habit of playing in his client's compound and making themselves most objectionable—making remarks to Mrs. Bell. On the 24th ult., the day of the assault, one of the coolies went into Mr. Bell's house without leave or license and said something about having come to look for a cat. His client had been very reluctant to bring this case into court. He had stood the annoyance for two months, and it was not until his hands were forced and he was summoned that he took action.

Mrs. Bell gave evidence as to the annoyance to which she had been subjected from Mr. Robertson's coolies during the past two or three months, and laid stress on the behaviour of one of the coolies on the 24th April, when he said he had come to look for a cat.

In reply to Mr. Gedge, witness said she had never complained to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson about the coolies, as she considered the matter too trivial.

Mr. Thomson asked his Worship to dismiss the case as against his client on the ground that he had received provocation from these coolies for some considerable time.

Mr. Gedge argued that no complaints had been made to Mr. Robertson about his coolies loitering about the compound. He submitted that if Mr. Bell had had good cause to complain he could have taken out summonses against the coolies or he could have written Mr. Robertson a chit, in which case Mr. Robertson would have interfered at once. He would point out to his Worship that the law in this colony was the same for coolies as for white men, and that coolies could not be assaulted with impunity.

For assaulting the coolies Mr. Bell was in the one case fined \$10 and ordered to pay \$10 compensation and in the other he was fined \$5, and ordered to pay \$5 compensation. The cross-summons was dismissed.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS TO DR. BATESON WRIGHT.

Among the passengers who left by the German Mail on the 1st inst. were Mr. E. H. Bateson Wright, D.D., Headmaster of Queen's College, and Mrs. Wright. They are going home on leave, and the Chinese masters and pupils, past and present, of the old Government Central School and Queen's College took the opportunity at the College yesterday at noon to present him with an address in the presence of the whole school, to whom Dr. Wright had previously addressed a few words of advice.

Among these present were the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. J. W. Jones, Ho Tong, Ho Fook, Cheung Choi.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, an old Central School boy, made the presentation. In the course of his observations he said—The address is somewhat short and concise, and it is not in the usual flowery and laudatory style, because in it we have only expressed our sincere and heartfelt sentiments and we have purposely left out all conventional, exaggerated and empty compliments. We wished simply to convey to you publicly our great appreciation of your energetic labour in the cause of education among the Chinese of this colony, and of your successful management during the past eighteen years of such an important Government institution as Queen's College with its thousands of scholars. In this building hundreds of Chinese youths are trained annually under your personal supervision and tuition, and when they go forth into the world they are enabled thereby to take a more active and intelligent part in the multifarious affairs of this part of the globe. I really do not know what the various local Government offices would do without having this excellent institution to draw upon for its annual supply of clerks, interpreters, and translators; nor can I imagine the dreadful inconvenience that mercantile houses in Hongkong, as well as

in the Treaty Ports, the Imperial Maritime Customs, and the Chinese Government itself, would experience if the supply of educated boys from the College were suddenly stopped. The magnitude and importance of your labours are immense, and that you have worked with unvarying success from year to year, notwithstanding the many difficulties that were in your way, must be a matter for congratulation, and compels the admiration and respect of all who have any acquaintance with the working of this College. When you first came out in 1882 to take charge of the Government Central School you had no easy task before you, as you had to carry on the work of one whose high moral character, whose great abilities and learning and whose indefatigable labour had already placed the school in a very high standard of efficiency. We are happy to bear witness however, that through your unremitted care and exertion, that high standard has been maintained and in several respects has even been improved upon. This address, Sir, contains our written testimony, and we venture to ask you to accept it as a token of our high esteem and respect. In presenting this address, I wish to thank you on behalf of the Chinese assistant masters for the great kindness and courtesy you have constantly shown to them, and also on behalf of the boys for your extreme kindness and sympathy with them in their daily work and study. In fact, Sir, we all regard you as a friend more than as a severe task-master, and your kindness, supported by that of your good lady, Mrs. Wright, has made many friends, not only amongst the pupils immediately under your care, but among all classes of Chinese residents in this colony. We present you with this address, Sir, meaning to accompany it with a piece of embroidered silk, but, as a work of art of that kind takes some little time to finish, we will when it is finished forward it to you in England for your acceptance. Now, Sir, I would conclude my short remarks by wishing that you and Mrs. Wright will have a very pleasant voyage home and a very pleasant holiday. We hope that you will acquire new health and vigour and return to us soon and work amongst us with renewed energy, and continue the good work which you have carried on before, with even more success than you have ever attained. I will now call upon Mr. Cheung Choi to read the address of the Chinese masters and pupils, past and present.

Mr. CHEUNG CHOI read the address as follows:—

To G. H. Bateson Wright, Esq., D.D.

Queen's College, Hongkong.

Sir,—On occasion of your approaching departure from the colony, we, the Chinese Masters and Pupils, past and present, of the old Government Central School and Queen's College, feel that we cannot allow you to leave us without expressing to you our great appreciation of your indefatigable labours in Hongkong in the cause of Education.

Briefly reviewing your career in this Island of Hongkong, we remember that on your arrival 1882 you were Acting Inspector of Schools, as in well as Head Master of the old Central School.

The Central School was found to be too small to accommodate the increasing number of students, and in its stead was reared its palatial successor the Queen's College, where the good work begun and carried on in the old building has been continued with distinguished success. The number of pupils has more than doubled during the period of your Head-Mastership, and every year large numbers of Chinese youths leave the College well equipped for the battle of life.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, has publicly stated that had it not been for the educated Chinese whom he was able to employ when the New Territory was taken over last year, the Government would have found itself in serious difficulties; and in every part of China, but especially in this Colony of Hongkong and in Canton, is spread an army of well-educated and flourishing business men who owe their success in life to the training they received at your hands. In order to assist the pupils in their studies, you prepared a number of books which have been welcomed near and far for their sound educational value, and the Oxford Local Examinations which

you have fostered here have been a great factor in the scholastic life of the Colony.

To your subordinates in the College you have been ever been helpful and polite, and to them also, as well as to the pupils, you have been not only a dignified superior and a learned master, but the kindest and most sympathetic of friends.

You are now about to proceed to England to enjoy a well-earned holiday, and we trust that Mrs. Wright and yourself will return to us with renewed health and vigour, and that you will long be spared to preside over Queen's College, which for the last eighteen years you have directed so wisely and so well.—We have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servants.

Dr. WRIGHT, in replying, said:—I am deeply grateful for the honour you have conferred upon me in presenting me with this handsome address. I am fully aware that in the first instance you were actuated by that high estimate in which you hold the profession of education and by the great love and affection that you bear to the memory of the old Central School and this Queen's College. But Dr. Ho Kai and the address are kind enough to employ very kind expressions concerning myself which I must honestly admit are beyond my merits. It must be remembered that although I have the honour to be in charge of this large and important institution I am a public servant and that I am expected to do my duty. It is, however, highly gratifying to me to be assured that the leading Chinese in the colony appreciate my efforts to endeavour to perform those duties; but it must also be remembered that no head-master can enable a school to flourish by his own unassisted efforts. You might just as well expect a General to win a battle without the assistance of Colonels and other officers, and I have rightly stated in the annual reports, and it gives me great pleasure to report the statement to-day, that it has always been my good fortune while in the colony to be supported by particularly good masters, both English and Chinese. With regard to the Chinese masters I think it must strike everybody as extraordinary that we can keep up the supply. In England you have large training colleges where hundreds of pupils are turned out annually fit to assist and finally take charge of schools. Here, unfortunately, we are not able to afford the expense of a proper training college, and we have to do our best in this school not only to train masters for ourselves but for Government schools, and it is astonishing to me how year after year—I might almost say month after month—Chinese boys from the first class are ready to step into the gaps and undertake the duties of master. I think I should mention on behalf of my wife how pleased she would have been had she been here at the kind references to herself made by Dr. Ho Kai and the address. She has always taken a great deal of interest in the College and has been a great help and stimulus to me in the various difficulties I have had to cope with. I will not take up more of your time, but will once again thank you most heartily for your kind wishes. I echo the sentiment expressed by Dr. Ho Kai that I may be permitted to return to the colony at the end of my leave with greater strength and renewed vigour and that you boys and masters will assist me in achieving in the future a higher degree of success than we have managed to achieve in the past. I thank you most sincerely, Dr. Ho Kai, and the Chinese gentlemen whom you represent, for your very kind expressions and for the very handsome address with which you have presented me. (Applause.)

Hearty cheers for Dr. and Mrs. Wright concluded the proceedings.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says that in order to witness the naval manoeuvres the Emperor of Kapan was to leave Tokyo on or about the 26th inst., the battleship *Fuji* having been selected to convey His Majesty to the scene. Owing to the occurrence of a case of plague at Osaka recently, care was taken to avoid Osaka. His Majesty was to witness the final operation of the manoeuvres in the Kii-Awaji Channel on or about the 29th inst., and afterwards visit Kobe, when a review of all the vessels engaged in the manoeuvres was to be held in the bay.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. W. M. B. ARTHUR, J.P.

On the 2nd inst. another gentleman who has long been a familiar figure in the colony leaves for home, namely, Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, J.P., Chief Clerk at the Magistracy. On Saturday week in view of his approaching departure the present Chinese members of the staff at the Magistracy, together with some who formerly worked under him, entertained Mr. Arthur to dinner, and at the Magistracy on the 1st inst. he received a further proof of the good-will felt towards him, being presented with a handsome gold watch and chain.

Mr. WILLIAM NG KWAI SHANG said:—Mr. Arthur, your numerous friends, both Chinese and Indian, and the past and present staff at the Magistracy, have asked me to be their spokesman on this occasion, and I have the greatest pleasure in acceding to their request. You came into the colony in 1868 as schoolmaster to the 75th regiment, now the famous Gordon Highlanders. You and Mrs. Arthur subsequently became master and matron of the Diocesan Home and Orphanage, and after this you were appointed master in charge of the Police School, which position you have occupied until now. In 1887 you were appointed first clerk at the Magistracy, and this post you have also occupied until now. You are now going home on four months leave, and on its expiration you will retire on pension, a pension which you so well deserve, after having faithfully and honestly served Her Majesty's Government for a period of 23 years. During your long residence in the colony you have made many Chinese and Indian friends. They regret exceedingly that you are going away, and I have been requested to thank you sincerely for the kindness and courtesy you have shown to them whenever they have come in contact with you either in public or private life. The success of your exertions in imparting a knowledge of English to the Chinese lads who have been under you is shown by those present on this occasion, many of whom are now holding responsible positions either in the Government, mercantile, or Customs service. As for the staff—both past and present—of the Magistracy I have been requested to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the kindness you have shown to us during the time you have been with us. We know you are deeply sorry to leave your numerous friends behind in the colony where you have spent the best part of your life, but we hope you will be consoled by your wife and children in the old country. The souvenir which I about to present to you shows the respect and esteem in which you are held by us. We hope you will reach your native land in safety, and that you will be spared by Almighty God for many years to enjoy your pension, and that you and Mrs. Arthur will have long life, health, wealth and prosperity. On behalf of the subscribers, I have the greatest pleasure in presenting to you this souvenir, which bears the following inscription:—"Presented to W. M. B. Arthur, Esq., J.P., by officers of the Magistracy and friends in token of their esteem, 1st May, 1900, Hongkong."

Mr. CHEUNG CHOI read out the names of the subscribers, which included many holding important positions in the different mercantile and other houses in the colony.

Mr. ARTHUR, in acknowledging the gift, said:—Mr. Ng Kwai Shang, fellow-workers under the Government, old pupils, and all friends, I thank you very very much. I think I am old enough at times to know some of my own shortcomings, and knowing them so well as I do, I must say that the contemplation of such a meeting as this—for I had some slight intimation before hand that it was to take place—took me by surprise. I did not think that my conduct and what I had done during the many years I have been in the colony would have resulted in a meeting like this, the very very warm feelings you have expressed in your address, Mr. Ng Kwai Shang, and in the presentation of a souvenir which it is unnecessary for me to say I should prize very highly, and as highly shall I prize the list of names now lying before me. Mr. Ng Kwai Shang has truly briefly sketched my career in the colony. With reference to the part I have

played as a teacher, I can only say that I have experienced what other teachers have experienced. We know that at times it is a very disappointing profession. It is not always that you can see the seed you have sown come to fruition, but if there is one thing more than another that is a satisfaction to a teacher it is to look around and see those who have been placed under his charge attain to the positions which many of you and others who are not here to-day have attained to. I have taken some little part in your education, and the fact that you are occupying respectable and some of you very high positions is a satisfaction for anyone who has had anything to do with your education. As for the Magistracy, I suppose it is one of the most trying departments in the Government service. We get crowds of all sorts and conditions of men and they come up here on various kinds of business, but the unfortunate part of the whole affair is that everybody expects to be served first, and many of them do not understand the importance of waiting, and there is sometimes a dissatisfaction. A great deal of that I think is owing to the wholly inadequate building which exists in this colony for the discharge of the duties attached to the Magistracy. We have small rooms and those rooms are crowded with applicants, and in summer time, as many of those applicants do not observe a great amount of personal cleanliness, it is very very trying. But still we have managed to get along for a number of years, and I do not know that I have known any very serious case of discontent. Notwithstanding the high pressure at which we are kept at times I do not think there has been any very grave error or any grave miscarriage of justice. I have made these remarks because I want to justify myself for little ebullitions of temper that I have at times shown. At the meeting the other night I remarked that I thought my bark was worse than my bite, and I consider this meeting a convincing proof that you are of that opinion. I thank you very much for your gift, which I shall prize most highly. It is true I am going on pension, but not, as was reported in the paper the other night a pound per day—a colonel's pay. I would give \$1000 at the present moment if I could make the gentleman who made that assertion prove it. There was another little error which crept into the paragraph, and that was with reference to the Diocesan Home. Mrs. Arthur and I started that home. We were the first master and matron there, and we remained there, I think, for nearly ten years. It was not a Government institution. I wished it had been. If it had been I should have had ten years more service, and should have drawn a pension larger in proportion than I shall do now, and then possibly I might have come up to one pound a day—colonel's pay. I thank you, gentlemen, again. It is unnecessary for me to tell you you will all live in my memory. As Mr. Ng Kwai Shang truly said, it was not my desire to leave the colony. I thought I was a fixture here until I went the way of all. However, circumstances have happened—we cannot control events—and I find myself for various reasons leaving the colony to go on pension. There is a certain amount of superstition, among some people that as soon as they go on pension they are going to peg out. I hope it will not be so in my case. As to my services I do not profess to be a brilliant man, but I have done my level best, and when a man has done that and has nothing but what is fair and honourable to look back upon he goes away very contented in his mind. Gentlemen, I thank you very much. (Applause.)

Three cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and the proceedings concluded.

A Pahang correspondent of *The Straits Times* says:—"It is reported that Mr. Bibby, the Raub manager, is negotiating with the late Selensing Company to re-commence mining operations on the latter's property, which, otherwise, runs the risk of reverting to Government for non-compliance with the conditions of its lease. I understand that the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co. has formed a subsidiary syndicate under the name of the Sungai Argus Gold Mining Co., to work certain parts of its concession."

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE "C" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The first annual dinner in connection with the "C" Machine Gun Company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps took place at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday night, the 28th ult., and was a great success. Captain G. H. Potts, officer commanding the unit, occupied the chair, and Lieut.-Col. Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G. (Commandant of the Corps), Captain Bland, R.A. (Adjutant to the Corps), and the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works) attended as guests, together with Mr. A. Rodger, of East Point, Mr. A. M. Farr, Sergeant Milligan, R.A., and Sergeant Keating R.W.F. There were also present Lieuts. Underwood, Stewart, and Duncan, Sergeant-Major Watling, Sergeant-Major Rodger, Sergeants King, Smillie, and Bevan, and about 200 gunners, etc.

After dinner the programme opened with the toast of "The Queen."

Captain Potts then said he had got a very pleasant duty to perform that night, and that was to make a small presentation to Sergeant Keating, who was with them when the company was first formed. (Hear, hear.) They were practically his handiwork. Sergeant Keating started them and put them to the right about, and they all very much regretted that it was really through ill-health that he had to give up being their instructor. (Hear, hear.) To show their esteem for him the men without any pushing at all, all having come forward spontaneously, had made up a small token in the way of a gold chain and pendant, the latter having Sergeant Keating's name on it. He hoped that when Sergeant Keating left the colony he would always wear it and remember the formation of "C" company of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. They were really only recruits and wanted a lot more drilling. (Hear, hear.) Every man in the company was very keen on the work, and there was no question about it that if they went on as they were doing they would soon be at the top. (Applause.)

Sergeant Keating was loudly applauded on rising to acknowledge the gift. He said he wished to thank them sincerely for the present they had made him, a present which he could not say he was entitled to, but which he knew had been given spontaneously by the company. He could only thank every member of the company for what he had done towards it. He was the first instructor to the company, and he was glad to think they were getting on so well. He had not the least doubt that if they made the same progress in the future which they had made in the past the company would become the best in the Corps. (Hear, hear.)

Captain Potts, in proposing "The Visitors," said they did not count Sir John Carrington or Captain Bland as visitors, but they counted Mr. Ormsby as one. Mr. Ormsby was a Volunteer in Ceylon a good many years and retired as a Captain—more honour to him. (Hear, hear.) At the same time they were trying to get at him for a grant of land for shooting. (Applause.)

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, in responding, said that if they would only point out where the land was which they wanted he would give them his strongest support in their endeavour to secure it. (Hear, hear.) Captain Potts had told them he had served as a Volunteer. He was proud to say he had done so. Volunteering was a thing every young man should go in for. When he saw them drilling in front of his office it reminded him of the time he spent with the Volunteers in Ceylon. He began as a private, and then—rather unfortunately for himself—he was pitchforked into the position of Lieutenant without having gone through all the courses. It was pleasant to find that all the young men in the colony had come forward as Volunteers. It gave one a sense of security in this far distant colony of the British Crown to find so many of the flower of the colony ready to defend the colony against attack. (Applause.)

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, who was loudly applauded on rising, said that when he went away in April, 1899, a little over 12 months ago, there was no "C" Machine Gun Company in connection with the Hongkong Volunteers. A few months after he left the colony the Com-

pany was fully formed, and when he returned two and a half months ago he found the company going very strong indeed. He had asked the Sergeant-Major for the figures relating to the company. He found that the establishment of the company was three officers and 38 non-commissioned officers and men. The present strength of the company was four officers and 37 non-commissioned officers and men. The company was formed in May or June of last year, so that really they were not yet 12 months old, and yet as the result of the drill season which had just expired it appeared that there were four officers efficient and 35 of the non-commissioned officers and men. (Hear, hear.) He thought Captain Bland, the Adjutant of the Corps, whom they all respected—(applause)—and whom they all admired—(applause)—would agree with him that that was an excellent report. He would remind them that this was a record to live up to. It was a record not to fall back from. They had their work cut out in the future to maintain the efficiency which they had attained during the past drill season. (Hear, hear.) The company was not quite up to strength, being one man short. It was a good thing not only to be up to strength but to be a little over, because, as they knew, in the case of a Volunteer unit such as theirs there were always claims on men which prevented them from attending drills now and then, and it was desirable to have some supernumeraries. He would urge them to endeavour to get 15 or 20 more men to join them. It would be in every way a good thing if they could do so. He hoped they would bear that in mind. The drain on a Volunteer unit in Hongkong was very considerable. There were always a good number of men leaving the colony, whether on leave of absence or permanently. Mr. Ormsby said all the young men in the colony were Volunteers. This was not so. There were a good many young men in the colony who might come and join them and they must endeavour to induce them to do so. He hoped that 12 months hence when they had their annual dinner they would invite Mr. Ormsby, and that they would then have the great satisfaction of being able to congratulate him on the admirable head-quarters he would have provided for the Corps. (Applause.)

Captain BLAND, in responding to the toast of "The Army and Navy," said that in regard to "C" Company he was never more surprised than to see the way the company came out in the last examination of non-commissioned officers for efficiency and the way in which the corporals and bombardiers acquitted themselves. (Hear, hear.)

Subsequently the prizes which have been competed for during the season were presented, Sergeant Bevan getting the volley-firing prize presented by Lieut. Stewart and Gunner Baldwin the medal to which he was entitled as the winner of the "Gubbay" Cup.

Several members of the company contributed songs during the evening, Mr. A. M. Farr accompanying.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. R. T. Wright) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund:

Further contributions will be thankfully received.

Already Acknowledged	\$34,208.35
Subscribed by the Canton Community	557.68
R. Cooke	25
M. H. Houston	20
Capt. Rolfe	10
Dr. & Mrs. Gibson	10
Total	\$34,831.03

A second remittance of Rs. 20,000 has been forwarded to-day to the Chairman, Central Committee Indian Famine Relief Fund, Calcutta.

A Committee representative of nearly 80,000 Chinese in Siam have sent a telegram to the Tsung-li Yamen protesting in strong terms against the crimes that were being done by those arch-traitors, Prince Oling and Kang Yi, having for their object the destruction of our beloved Emperor Kuang Hsu.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son, the general managers, have received the following report from the Mining Manager of work done during the month of March, 1900.

Rise South of Shaft above 100 Level. (Marked A on plan).—Has gone up 10 feet here, the lode is very much broken up, due to the presence of several flaws in succession, and the gold contents are also very much lower. The lode matter is about 16 inches in thickness and worth 5½ dwts. I am expecting an improvement, as the rule of the field is that when the oxidized zone is reached, the lode may be smaller, but is generally much richer.

Slope No. 1. South over 150 feet Level (B in plan).—The lode averages 10 inches in thickness, is in easy country and worth 12 dwts. per ton.

Slope No. 2. (C in plan).—The lode here averages 18 inches in thickness and is worth 12½ dwts. per ton, and I am pleased to report that the lode is going up strong.

150 feet Level South (D in plan).—The lode in the face of this level is 4 feet in thickness but poor, the Foot Wall portion, viz, 36 inches assaying 5 dwts. and the Hanging Wall 3 dwts. the Foot Wall portion only going to the battery. The level has been driven for the month 38 feet.

Under 150 feet Level South (E in plan).—This block is now worked out. What portion remains is 4 in. in thickness and worth 7 dwts.

Slope over 150 feet Level North (F in plan).—Here the lode was 9 in. in thickness and after removing 6 tons the stone out out. This stone was crushed by itself and yielded 11 ozs. 1 dwt., equal to 1.85 ozs. per ton.

Slope under 150 ft. Level North (G in plan).—The ore removed from here was only worth 2½ dwts. and proved itself too poor to work.

Winze. (K in plan).—This winze is holed through to the 300 feet Level and will be finished in the course of a few shifts. The average value of the lode at this depth is 4 dwts. per ton. The foot wall portion if kept separate and clean is worth about 6 dwts. Depth sunk for the month 22 feet.

300 feet Level (M in plan).—Has been driven 35 feet, the lode is 5 feet in thickness and worth 4½ dwts. Last month it was worth 2½ dwts.

2nd Intermediate North (H in plan).—This was driven only 6 feet 6 inches for the month. The lode is 3 feet 6 inches in thickness and worth about 2½ dwts. I have discontinued driving it for the time being.

Battery Report.—During the month the Battery has had several short stoppages, due to the main belt breaking. This belt was completely worn out and has been replaced by a new one. A few necessary repairs at the Battery have been attended to and everything is working well to date. For the month ended 562 tons have been crushed, yielding Amalgam as under:—

	ozs.	dwts.	per cent.
Plates	232	4	39.9
Pans	253	14	43.6
Boxes	95	10	16.5
Total	581	8	

Smelted Gold=199.05 ozs.

The ore yielded at the rate of 7.93 dwts. per ton, average assay value of Tailings=1.4 dwts. per ton. Total value of ore=9.33 dwts. per ton. Besides the monthly clean-ups (2) the four Battery plates have been scaled producing 80.55 ozs. smelted gold. The yield of the battery for the last three months, viz., Jan. February and March, is as follows:—Tons crushed=1295. Total gold obtained=661.35 ozs. Value of ore crushed for the three months=10.21 dwts. per ton.

Assay Department.—The usual number of assays have been made, besides the smelting of gold and cleaning of scale removed from the copper plates.

Engineering Work.—The winding engine and battery engine are in good order and the compressor plant has been working smoothly and without any stoppages. All necessary repairs have been effected to the rock-drills, also the battery stamper shank has been welded and put in thorough repair.

Dams.—We have sufficient water to last nine months.

General Remarks.—In reviewing the work done at the Mine, I feel satisfied with the progress made, particularly in the Winze and 300 ft. Level. Unfortunately the lode in many places was small and low grade except in the No. 2 Rise over the 150 ft. Level South. Here we have a decided improvement, whilst in other places the lode has been large and low grade, and particularly is this so in the 150 feet Level South and also in the Winze and 300 feet Level. I am in hopes of the lode in the 150 feet Level South and the 300 feet Level improving in quality. During this month as already stated the lode in the 300 feet Level has improved from 2.2 dwts. to 4½ dwts. per ton.

It will take the best part of this month to prepare the payable blocks of ore so as to work them economically, and to facilitate matter I must drive an Intermediate North from the Winze as in dotted lines in the Winze. I shall start on Friday next.

I have also found it absolutely necessary to build another Slurry Dam below the one already in use, as this has been completely filled up.

I have made a slight alteration in the Battery which I think will enable me to do away with one or two hands.

(G. E. MOORE, Manager.

QUEEN MINES, LIMITED.

Messrs J. D. Humphreys and Son, the general managers, have received the following reports from the Mining Manager of work done during the month of March, 1900.

205 feet Level South.—Has been driven 27 ft. passing through a chute of ore, 3 feet 6 inches in thickness and assaying from 3 dwts. to 11 dwts. per ton. In fact I thought this chute so encouraging that I put through a trial crushing of 17 tons which yielded 3½ dwts. per ton. Since crushing this parcel the chute of ore from which it was taken has out out and a new one made its appearance, assaying only 3 dwts. I still expect to cut a payable chute of ore in this level.

400 feet Level North.—Has been driven 37 ft. this month on a formation 4 feet in width, carrying two well-defined walls. The formation consists of a mixture of slate with occasional bunches of quartz carrying traces of gold only.

The winding engine has had one or two slight alterations made to it during the month and is now in good working order.

G. E. MOORE, Manager.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Green Island Cement Company was held in the office of the Company, No. 9, Praya Central, at noon on the 28th inst. for the purpose of confirming the following resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 12th April last, viz:—

"That the Capital of the Company be increased to \$1,000,000, by the creation and issue of 50,000 new shares of \$10 each fully paid up."

Mr. R. Shewan presided and the other gentlemen present were—Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs D. Gillies, C. W. Dickson, A. Babington, Fung Wa Chun, Siu On and Luk Yuk Kai.

Mr. SHEWAN proposed that the resolution be confirmed.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

This was all the business.

On the 26th ult. a presentation was made in Shanghai to Mr. Louis Röcher, Commissioner of Customs, whose long and excellent work has earned him general approbation in the Settlements. "More than this," says *The N. C. Daily News*, "he won the distinguished regard of the members of the Customs Staff, both indoor and outside." The foreign members, on the news of his approaching departure, determined to express the sentiments they held, and accordingly a committee consisting of Heads of Departments was appointed to arrange for the presentation, which was made on Thursday last.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 20th April.

THE CASE OF THE "BELGIKA"—\$50,000 FINE IMPOSED.

The steamer *Belgica*, chartered to Mendezona & Co., and owned by the Philippine Trading Company, of which Mr. André is president, has been fined \$50,000 by the American Government. On the last trip the *Belgica* called at the port of Baybay on the island of Leyte. The captain of the *Belgica*, under instructions from the agent of Mendezona & Co., who was on board, obtained from the captain of the Port of Baybay permission and clearance for the ship to enter another port still in insurgent hands, and thus under blockade, closed and "unequipped." The Captain of the Port of Baybay is an army officer, newly appointed and unfamiliar with his duties, and was very likely easily induced to give a clearance to the unequipped port, but the captain of the *Belgica* knew better and the agent must have known better, as both are shipping men and familiar with the laws and rules of coastwise trade. Permission to enter unequipped ports must be obtained from the governor-general, the military governor, or the governor or commanding officer of the island on which the port is located, and the procedure is complicated. It has been the policy of the Government to give all shippers an equal chance, and hence the laws of the coastwise trade are clearly defined and rigidly enforced. The unequipped port to which the *Belgica* sailed was supposed to contain a large amount of hemp, and by entering it before other buyers had a chance, the *Belgica* would have been able to get the produce at a much lower figure than later competitors; but as matters turned out the unequipped port did not have any great supply of hemp and—as Mr. André says—it was bad business. In entering the port the *Belgica* is accused of having lowered the American flag. This is what has made the authorities so angry, and no doubt it influenced General Otis in setting the amount of the fine. This information is believed to have been made public by an Englishman who was employed on the *Belgica*, and who could not remain silent at such a breach of shipping law. At any rate André & Co. relieved one and possibly three foreign members of the ship's outfit and paid their way to Singapore; but this did not prevent the news of the law-breaking being made public. Apparently, as though the deal was right, the trip to the unequipped port was duly entered on the *Belgica's* log. On her return to Manila she was immediately seized.

Now the question comes as to who shall pay the heavy fine, which is nearly half the value of the vessel. It is usual in such cases to fine the vessel and if the sum is not paid by a specified date, a public auction is held. In this case it is believed that the owners can either pay the fine or stand trial, as they wish.

André's contract with Mendezona & Co. has a clause which specifies to the effect that the steamer shall not enter unequipped ports without the permission of the U. S. authorities, and enjoins observance of the articles of coastwise trade. But Mendezona & Co. did have permission of a United States officer which gave the appearance of right, but not the actual right, as any shipping man must know. The captain of the ship is not an agent of the charterers, but of the owners, and thus André & Co. are responsible for the action of their employers. From this point it seems as though André & Co. must meet the fine or lose the ship. The case is complicated and will probably find its way into the court. Mendezona & Co. hold that they are not responsible. In the meantime the ship is tied up in the river.

It is rumoured about that, if the investigation is carried out, a large number of vessels will be found to be open to the same or similar charges. Along the water-front the flag-lowering is laughed at, and men say—Why, if the flag weren't lowered the insurgents wouldn't allow the ships to enter. This rather implies a bad state of affairs and if, as it is said, ships have been in the habit of stowing away the American flag and hoisting a white one at the mast from time to time during the long months of blockading seems lively developments will

yet be seen. However, these are only rumours and as a ship's clearances are supposed to limit and show where she has been, there may be no truth in them.

[Our correspondent's letter reaches us a little late owing to its having missed the boat from Manila to Hongkong the week before last. A telegram appears in to-day's issue which announces that the *Belgica* has been released on payment of "a thirty thousand dollar fine."

25th April.

MR. SPITZEL IS ACQUITTED.—THE JEWELRY IS RETAINED.

After a three days' trial in the Provost Court of Manila, Louis Spitzel was acquitted of the charge of smuggling brought against him by the United States Government. The jewelry in question was not returned. It is retained by the Custom House Authorities for future disposition and will be used as evidence in the coming case of the United States against Levi, who was at one time employed by Mr. Spitzel and who brought the jewelry into Manila without manifesting it or paying duties. The case has excited an unusual amount of interest and many persons who scarcely knew the location of the court are now quite familiar with its handsome ceilings and solid, comfortable furniture. The trial occupied three days and was stubbornly fought, point by point, by both prosecuting attorney and counsel for the defendant. Numerous witnesses testified and were subjected to severe cross-examinations. Objections were frequent and many squabbles arose between the lawyers. Mr. Spitzel himself was put upon the stand and developed his side of the story. He is a lively, easy talker, whose gesticulations emphasize remarks; he has a good head for dates and figures, and he keeps the run of his subject as well as the court stenographer. Mr. Bradley, the prosecuting attorney, sought to confuse him in the cross-examination and sent in complex questions with great rapidity, but Mr. Spitzel proved equal to the test. The weakest point in his story was brought out by Judge Hull, who took up his testimony to the effect that in the year 1888 he had done gold \$2,000,000 worth of business in six months. He also testified that his agent in China, Mr. Levi, had sold out five houses in North China for the paltry sum of some 2,000 dollars, or thereabouts—this in 1899. As Mr. Spitzel assured the court—that his business was in good shape the two statements seemed hardly compatible.

The counsel for the defendant laid great stress on the fact that the total amount of the duties on the jewelry could not exceed \$47 Mexican currency. He pointed to the defendant's enormous business interests and offered a letter from the "China, Limited," directed to Mr. Spitzel in the United States and concerning the matter of £200,000. In addition he figured up cable-tolls and showed how it would be impossible to arrange for such a case of smuggling without spending more money than the amount of the dues. The evidence showed that Mr. Spitzel was in America, and knew nothing about the bringing of the jewelry to Manila, and papers were offered to prove that Levi, the man who brought the jewelry to Manila, was not acting as his agent. Under these circumstances there was nothing to do but render a decision of acquittal. On Monday night the lawyers closed the case and on Tuesday evening at five o'clock the presiding judge, Major Hull, called the court to order and gave his decision, making Mr. Spitzel a free man. Mr. Levi was in the court and the prosecuting attorney immediately moved that his trial be taken up. "This case will be decided chiefly on the evidence as brought out in the Spitzel case."

A number of points of law have been encountered which are very hard to decide. There is but little familiarity with Spanish law even at this date, and statutes though clearly set forth in one place may be found to be curtailed and limited or rendered very elastic by some particular clause that has been overlooked. Thus ordinary procedure is full of surprises. A person sees American lawyers in an American Court, proceeding according to Spanish law which they can only read in translated form, and citing rulings of American Courts and referring to test-cases threshed out in the United States, in support of their Spanish arguments.

Louis Spitzel claims to be a very much wronged man, amounting almost to persecution at the hands of the Americans. He has been hounded and shadowed in every move and the detective and secret-service men have made no attempt to conceal themselves, but have openly followed him, and by so doing have been the cause of much annoyance. He was twice arrested and released. A few days ago a very handsome, well-dressed Filipino woman knocked at the door of his room in the Hotel Oriente and asked to be admitted as she had something very important to give him. Mr. Spitzel let her in and noticed that she was carrying a small package. Instead of producing the "important something" she turned about to close the door. Spitzel suspected the game and immediately ordered her out. He reported the matter to the clerk, and was told that the woman had said she knew Mr. Spitzel, and had described him accurately, saying she had business of importance with him. Naturally the clerk directed her to his room. Spitzel considers that he narrowly escaped an attempted blackmail.

The British Consul was present during most of the trial, and during his absence he was represented by the vice-consul.

FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Tainan, 25th April.

PROGRESS IN FORMOSA—RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

It is undoubtedly a fact that the island of Formosa is progressing rapidly since the Japanese occupation of it. Though natural circumstances in the last few years have of course contributed to this, yet it should not be overlooked that it is the work of the Japanese Government which have promised the island a prosperous future. In South Formosa, railway construction works are going on steadily from Takow Port to Tainan, and it is expected that this thoroughfare will be open to the public in September, or at the latest in October of this year. Even now locomotives are running so far as Akautien, a town at about sixteen miles from the port, and the line is utilized by those who are in the Government service. Of course road-construction works have advanced far north of the country town, but some special difficulties have to be overcome in bridging over a stream at about half a mile north from that place. It is reported by an engineer connected with the work that this is the most difficult part of the operations connected with the line and it requires a few months more before the work can be finished. As to the track passing throughout the length of the island, and available for transportation of goods, etc., it is the Government's intention, we are told, that the track materials which will become useless after the railway is opened to traffic shall be used to facilitate the connection of some of the inland towns with the main system of communication. It is needless to say the sugar and other important plantations will get a strong stimulus by this new system of inter-connection.

TAKOW HARBOUR.

As for the long-disputed harbour construction at Takow, we know nothing except that fourteen hundred thousand five hundred yen are provided in the Budget for the current year as a fund in connection with harbour works in the island.

TAINAN IMPROVEMENTS.

In Tainan the authorities have successfully pulled down houses to widen the main streets, which are very narrow, as is always the case with old Chinese cities, to meet the daily increasing need of easy communication, and also some necessary sanitary work has been undertaken. We further expect to have in a few months the benefits of telephone service. The regulation for it has been gazetted a few weeks ago and some appointments of engineers and staff for the purpose have been made.

A big banquet was held on board the new Hamburg-America liner *Hamburg* at Singapore on the 26th ult. The proceedings seem to have been most cordial. The first toast was the German Emperor, the second His Majesty the Kaiser.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR JAPANESE SOURCE.]

Canton, 28th April.

Some young Siamese princesses and a Chinese tour came to Canton from Yunnan on the 26th ult. and accompanied by their tutors and a retinue, called upon H. H. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang. They were cordially received and ushered into the large Viceroy's reception room, seated according to seniority of rank, and were treated to tea and cakes after the Chinese fashion, and after a pretty long conversation departed. On their way through the long and winding streets of Canton they were a little surprised at seeing the large number of shops and stores stocked with unique curios, umbrellas, dories, blackwood porcelain, and chinaware, which are really well worth seeing.

It is reported that the English Government has chosen a suitable site at Wuchow to build a British Consulate on, and that all the building materials to be transported there will pass the Customs free.

For some considerable time Canton has been flooded with counterfeit gold. On the 23rd ult. General Li, of the Kwong Hip garrison, upon the information of a detective, took over 100 soldiers with him, and went to the second ward of the Western suburb near Chai Hu. They surrounded a certain house where some eight or nine persons were engaged in coining ten and twenty-cent pieces at night, and arrested them. A lot of machinery and tools were also seized, and it was referred to the Viceroy as to how they should be disposed of.

The pirate chief Wong, otherwise known as "Wong, the Flat-nosed Fish," together with his comrades, has been a source of great trouble to the junks and passenger-boats, and to the people of the locality which they infested as well. For a long time they have been levying blackmail, and have escaped apprehension and defied the action of the mandarins. On the 18th ult. as a boat laden with matting passed by Lion Chung, "the Flat-nosed Fish" and his comrades, about twenty persons in all, went on board and exacted blackmail to the amount of 100 taels. The captain of the boat told him to come next day, as he had to go to the owner of the boat to get money. Meanwhile he went and reported the matter to the nearest guard-house. He got about two dozen well-armed soldiers, who went on board in disguise and concealed themselves in the hold below. Next day when Wong and his comrades came, on a signal the soldiers rushed up from the hold, and seized him and some of his comrades, others having had time to escape and one being killed.

As was said before, *fantan* was farmed out to General Li of the Kwong Hip garrison, who pays \$1,200,000 per annum, besides 2 per cent. on the amount to all the civil and military officials, to the yamen runners and others who have been receiving the *fantan* squeeze before; but as this amount was evidently not enough to pay them, they were not satisfied, so they allowed gambling to be carried on in places where there are no licensed gambling houses. The gentry and neighbours who had not received their ensternary squeeze naturally became indignant and occasionally smashed these houses and gave trouble to the mandarins. Some merchants have proposed to the Viceroy to take away the monopoly from the General, and are willing to pay a further sum of \$300,000, annually in addition to the above amount.

With reference to the attempted assassination of Lao Hok-shon, described in my last letter, there is a rumour going about, which may or may not be true, that the old and the new opium farmers are litigating on the matter of license-fees, and that most of the opium-smokers (principally rogues and vagabonds) are dissatisfied and, hearing that Lao Hok-shon was about to take a monopoly of the opium license, planned and paid for the attempt to murder him.

On the 20th ult. a cargo of 180 Singapore cattle reached Manila, all infected with foot and mouth disease. They were promptly quarantined in the owners' corral. *The Manila Times* says this was "all that lacked to complete the category of cattle-diseases in Manila."

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 2nd May.

I am sorry indeed to have to report that the plague still continues in its full force. In certain quarters of this colony, such as the San-kin, Sacong and S. Lazaro districts, this is only to be expected, as they are the dirtiest parts of the town, and the Government should a long time ago have done away with them altogether and thus removed the principal breeding places of disease germs. Another thing also to which the Leal Senado and the Government should see is to check the over-crowding of houses with inhabitants—not only human beings, but also dogs, pigs, fowls, cats, etc., living in rooms only a few feet square, where there is only space for one person, though it is utilised for a family of man, wife, and children, not to mention various animals. And sometimes one may find more than one family, each comprising of three or four persons, in a space not larger than a large double-bed. To do away with the plague the Government and the Leal Senado must enforce the spreading of inhabitants and insist on a larger space for every family.

It is also advisable that those whom it may concern should not open the drains during this time of the year, for if the drains are clear there is no use in opening them while if they are choked, the present is no time to clean them. The authorities should order this work to stop at once. At Praia Grande, where such work is going on, I am sorry to say that a few cases of fever of a very bad character have occurred. I wish I were mistaken and that it were not the opening of the drains that caused the mischief, but it is a fact that in the places like Praia Grande fever never has been fatal except this year. The Government is spending much money very uselessly. Why should it not employ the sum in doing away with those filthy quarters where so many plague cases are reported daily? Three years having past without anything being done in this colony, everything is in a state of utter neglect. But now those concerned should take note of what is passing and prepare a long and careful report to present to the new Governor and let him make the necessary improvements. The drains in the city I am not going to say much about. A few words will put the case clearly before the public. It is better to have no drains than to have them as they are now.

Mr. King Lein-shan's extradition case still continues. On Monday last a few more witnesses were examined and the trial will now take place, and if the accused is found guilty he will be handed over to his Government; but the public which takes an interest in Mr. King can trust in the Chief Justice, Senhor Magalhaes, who knows how to protect an innocent man when he finds him.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE TROUBLE WITH CHAIR COOLIES AT THE PEAK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Dear Sir,—May I asked you to kindly publish the following in connection with your report on the trouble with chair-coolies at the Peak?

Your reporter has apparently omitted to mention what my counsel laid stress on as to the defenceless condition of the Peak houses during the day-time. The annoyance complained of all took place while I was below—that is, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—when the Chinese are aware there is little to be afraid of. My counter-summons against the chair-coolies was nevertheless dismissed at short notice; compensation was given to the very coolies who caused the trouble; and I leave it to those who have families at the Peak to imagine what such encouragement may mean to the more turbulent of the native population.

Eheu, absentem! ('R.N.')—I am, yours very truly,

HERBERT W. BELL.

Hongkong, 29th April, 1900.

P.S.—I have just been asked by my own servants if the coolies next door have received a present for mis-behaving, and I have been obliged to admit they have! H. W. B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—I have been asked by many why I do not demand a re-hearing of the second part of the case given against me on the 27th ult. I wish to say that I have done so, and that after two days' consideration the magistrate has decided in the negative.

So far as I and others can see, the result of the case has only been to set a premium on disorderliness, and I hope we shall not have a crop of troubles springing up, like the Gorgon's teeth, under the present weak-kneed régime.

Trusting you will find space in your columns for these few lines, I am, sir, yours very truly,

HERBERT W. BELL.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1900.

THE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE H.M.S. "TERRIBLE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—As I am informed that there may be some misapprehension in the minds of some of the members of the British community here, I am writing this letter to state that the omission to call a public meeting of British Residents in connection with the preparations for the reception and entertainment of the Captain, officers and crew of H.M.S. *Terrible*, was simply due to an oversight which was caused by arrangements requiring to be very promptly made. It was the intention of Mr. Francis and myself, who were the prime movers in this matter, as being the President of the China Association and the Acting President of the Navy League respectively, that all members and classes of the British community should take part in the celebration of welcome, and it is with very great regret that we have learned that some of the community might feel aggrieved by our inadvertence in not calling a public meeting.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

H. E. POLLOCK.

3rd May, 1900.

THE GYMKANA.

The first gymkana of the season took place on the Race Course on Saturday afternoon, the 28th ult., in beautiful weather. Mr. Rounseville Wildman was fortunate enough to secure a couple of first prizes with his Thistle, which won the one-mile handicap and mile and a quarter race easily. The half-mile handicap was a close race, Tocsin just managing to pull it off. Wizard looked like winning the steeple-chase, but when nearing home Corbie contested the first position with him and just managed to win.

By kind permission of Col. the Hon. R. H. Bertie and Officers of Royal Welch Fusiliers, the band of the regiment attended.

The following were the officials:—

Committee:—W. A. Cruickshank, Esq., the Hon. C. P. Chater, C. M. G., R. M. Gray, Esq., M. Grote, Esq., Capt. E. L. Berger, H. K. R. T. F. Hough, Esq., The Hon. J. J. Keswick, the Hon. F. H. May, C. M. G., J. McKie, Esq., G. C. Moxon, Esq., G. H. Potts, Esq., F. J. Walwyn, Esq., R. W. F., Capt. Des Voeux, R. E., Capt. Loring, R. A. Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman Commander Plenderleath, R. N., W. J. Gresson, Esq., and Hart Buck, Esq.

JUDGES:—M. Grote, Esq., Hon. J. J. Keswick and R. M. Gray, Esq.

HANDICAPPER:—The Hon. C. P. Chater, C. M. G. and J. McKie, Esq.

STARTER:—T. F. Hough, Esq.

TIMEKEEPER:—G. H. Potts, Esq.

CLERK OF SCALE:—Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D. A. M. G. (a.)

HON. TREASURER:—W. A. Cruickshank, Esq.

HON. SECRETARY:—Capt. Loring, R. A.

HALF MILE RACE; for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale, with 7 lbs added; winners at any official meeting this season 5 lbs extra; subscription griffins of any year and bona fide polo ponies allowed 7 lbs; first prize, presented by A. Babington, Esq.; 2nd prize, \$20; 3rd saves stakes.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Tocsin, 11st 11lb ... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 1
Mr. G. H. Potts's Demon King, 12st 0lb ... (Mr. Gresson) 2

Mr. Johnson's Yellow Dwarf, 11st 8lb ... (Mr. Johnson) 3
Unique Rose, 11st 8lb ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Mr. Hart Buck's Desespoir, 11st 13lb ... (Mr. Hart Buck) 0
Mr. Flower's Bushwood, 11st 5lb ... (Mr. Flower) 0
Pedigree, 11st 8lb ... (Mr. Wibel) 0
Capt. Trefuiss's Rascal, 11st 8lb ... (Capt. Trefuiss) 0
Mr. Anderson's Paradox, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Anderson) 0
Lient. Sempill's Jim Crack, 10st 9lb ... (Mr. Keyes) 0
TENT PEGGING; points for pace and style. Three runs. First prize presented by J. Mackay, Esq. 2nd Prize, entrance fees.
Captain Bland ... 1
Mr. Moxon ... 2
STEEPLECHASE; for all China ponies; over usual course; weight for inches as per scale; previous winners of any steeplechase 7 lbs added. First prize presented by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead. 2nd prize, \$20.
Mr. Gresson's Corbie, 11st 1lb ... (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. Johnson's Wizard, 11st 11lb ... (Mr. Johnson) 2
Mr. G. H. Potts's Demon King, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 3
Mr. Walwyn's Landsknecht, 11st 5lb ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Lient. Sempill's Orinoco, 10st 12lb ... (Mr. Keyes) 0
Mr. Anderson's Sea Fog, 11st 4lb ... (Mr. Anderson) 0
Mr. Cruickshank's Charger, 11st 4lb ... (Mr. Cruickshank) 0
Mr. Brutton's Bandelero, 11st 1lb ... (Mr. Brutton) 0
ONE MILE HANDICAP; for all China ponies, first prize presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.; second prize \$20.
Mr. R. Wildman's Thistle, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Johnson) 1
Capt. Richards' Pilgrim, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Walwyn) 2
Mr. G. H. Potts's Tocsin, 11st 2lb ... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 3
Mr. Johnson's Yellow Dwarf, 10st 13lb ... (Mr. Flower) 0
Mr. Hart Buck's Impahla, 10st 8lb ... (Mr. Hart Buck) 0
Mr. Grey's Tube Rose, 11st 4lb ... (Mr. Cruickshank) 0
LADIES' NOMINATION; each competitor to start from a post 100 yards up the course and ride to the lady who nominates him, take one potatoe from her each time, return and drop it into his bucket. Should he fail or the potatoe not remain, he must dismount, put the potatoe into the bucket, and mount without assistance. To win, first past the winning post third time in, with all three potatoes in the bucket; three prizes from the Gymkhana Fund.
Capt. Gwynne, nominated by Mrs. Morris ... 1
Mr. Johnson, nominated by Mrs. R. Wildman ... 2
Mr. Moxon, nominated by Mrs. Moxon ... 3
ONE AND A QUARTER MILE RACE; for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale with 3 lbs added; subscription griffins allowed 7 lbs; winners at this meeting 5 lbs extra; first prize presented by R. Shewan, Esq.; second prize, \$20.
Mr. R. Wildman's Thistle, 11st 9lb ... (Mr. Johnson) 1
Mr. Hermann's Minor, 10st 13lb ... (Mr. Cruickshank) 2
Mr. Hart Buck's Desespoir, 11st 4lb ... (Mr. Hart Buck) 3
Mr. G. H. Potts's Pirate King, 11st 4lb ... (Mr. Gresson) 0
Capt. Richard's Pilgrim, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
HALF MILE RACE; for walers; catch weights over 11st. 7lbs; first prize presented; second prize, \$20.
Mr. Hart Buck's Flemingf n, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Hart Buck) 1
Mr. Vyvyan's Lyonesse, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Flower) 2
Mr. Hart Buck's Randwick, ... 3
Mr. Burton's Sydney, 11st 7lb ... (Mr. Cruickshank) 0

Mr. Moxon's Paddy, 11st 7lb... (Mr. Moxon) 0
Mr. Higgon's Jonathan, 11st 7lb... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 0

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

THE "GILLIES" CUP.

The second competition for the above Cup took place on the Association Range. The best scores were as follows:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
Gunner Sayers	32	30	28	18	108
Gunner Logan	27	28	21	21	97
Gunner Stewart	31	35	29	So.	95
Gunner Lapsley	32	30	28	5	95
Sergeant Rutter	32	30	29	8	94
Corp. White	25	31	28	5	89
Gunner Ratter	30	29	28	So.	84
Bomb. Deas	24	28	12	14	78
Gunner Donaldson	12	28	27	9	76

FIELD BATTERY.

The Field Battery held their fourth and final competition for the Belilios Cup on Sunday, 29th April. The following are the ten best scores:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
Drummer Ford	30	30	26	13	99
Gunner O. Ellis	23	31	22	21	97
Gunner Logan	27	28	21	21	97
Gunner Stewart	31	33	29	So.	95
Gunner Grey	32	30	32	So.	94
Sergeant Rutter	32	30	29	2	93
Gunner Sayer	32	30	26	5	93
Gunner Lapsley	32	30	28	2	92
Gunner A. A. Alves	31	31	23	5	90
Drummer Burgess	29	29	30	So.	88

THE "BELILIOS" CUP.

The conditions for the Belilios Cup competition are that the two best scores (including handicap points) to count as winner. Gunner Lapsley is therefore the fortunate possessor of the Cup with a score of 194 out of a possible 210. Sergeant-Drummer Brown comes second with 193, and first in the nett score. The following are the ten best scores for two shots:—

	Scores.	Total.
Gunner Lapsley	94	100
Sergt. Drum. Brown	96	97
Gunner Pidgeon	96	96
Gunner Grey	96	94
Gunner Stewart	95	95
Gunner Sayer	96	93
Gunner A. A. Alves	94	92
Gunner Burgess	92	91
Gunner Humphreys	83	99
Corporal White	97	84

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There was a small attendance at the Range on the 28th inst. for the Weekly Spoon Competition, only ten members competing. The scoring was well up to the average. At the close of the competition Mr. Pidgeon, a promising shot, compiled a "possible" out of ten shots at the 600 yards range:—

SCORES.

	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
G. S. N. Wallace, R.E.	30	35	30	30	30	—	95
F. Penning	29	29	24	10	—	—	92
J. Pidgeon	29	32	30	—	—	—	91
Q. M. Sergt. West, R.E.	32	27	31	—	—	—	90
J. Cramer, R.N.	31	32	27	—	—	—	90
M. J. Northcote	30	23	28	10	—	—	89
Sergt. Blair	29	30	25	—	—	—	84

* Winners of Spoons.

The contest for the election of a representative from Cambodia to the Conseil Supérieur of Colonies has resulted in the return by a large majority of M. Jourdan, the former representative. The Mekong has four libel actions against the *Opinion* in connection with election articles.

HONGKONG.

A notification was given on the 2nd inst. that until further notice the Hongkong-Macao cable would be kept open until 9 p.m. for the reception and transmission of telegrams.

Shortly after seven p.m. on the 29th ult. the Fire Brigade at Aberdeen were called to a fire in Aberdeen Road, two grass-stacks having become ignited. The flames were put out, but not before the stacks had been almost burned down and over \$200 damage done.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on the 30th ult. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by auction three lots of land. Two lots situate in Queen's road West brought forth no bids but Building lot No. 104, situate in Mount Gough Road, was purchased for Mr. R. N. Nissean for \$580, \$20 above the upset. The annual rental is \$64 and the contents in square feet 11,200.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. a Chinaman carrying on business at 80, Praya Central, was charged on remand with selling adulterated whisky. Mr. Reece appeared for him. Inspector Duncan took a sample of the whisky on the 10th ult. and divided it into three parts, one being sent to Mr. F. Browne, Government analyst. Mr. Browne's certificate was produced but Mr. Reece asked that Mr. Browne should be called the Ordinance entitling him to make the request if he thought fit. Mr. Browne, however, has gone home on leave, and under the circumstances the case was dismissed.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. Chi On, a postman (No. 31) employed at the Post Office, was charged with stealing a parcel of letters stamped with six \$1 stamps. The Head Messenger said that shortly after seven o'clock that morning Postman No. 55 told him that the parcel of letters produced was missing. He went round the office to look for it, but could not find it. He then saw the defendant holding the letter bag produced in the left hand and a bundle of letters in the other. He saw something bulging out in the bag, and on opening the bag found the missing bundle. He reported the matter to one of the clerks, and a detective was called in and took the defendant into custody. Postman 55 said that at about seven o'clock that morning he took in a parcel of letters with six \$1 stamps on. He put the parcel on a table and turned round to cancel stamps and immediately afterwards missed the parcel. He reported the matter to the Head Messenger and saw the parcel taken out of the defendant's bag. His Worship asked what was the value of the parcel, and Mr. Lewis (Acting Postmaster) replied: The value of the stamps is \$6. I do not know the value of the correspondence inside. The defendant was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

An arms case which aroused some interest came before Mr. Halifax at the Magistracy on the 27th ult. On the 26th ult. a Chinaman was found conveying fifty revolvers from the premises of Messrs Nervegna and Co. to the Tak Loong arms shop. When stopped by the police the man produced a license issued under the old Ordinance No. 8, of 1895, the license having been issued on the 10th instant and expiring on the 10th May. Under the old Ordinance it was ruled by Mr. T. Sercombe Smith that by virtue of such a license a dealer could remove Arms from one place to another in the colony without getting any permit. Section 3 of the new Ordinance, however, says:—"No person shall move, or cause to be moved, any arms or ammunition, within the colony or the waters thereof, except for the purpose of export and (where an export permit is required) under an export permit, without having first obtained a removal permit, in the form of Schedule C hereto, from the Captain Superintendent of Police." Sub-section 2 of section 11 of the new Ordinance says:—"From and after the commencement of this Ordinance the fee payable for any such licence as aforesaid shall be that mentioned in the Schedules hereto annexed marked D, but no person who at the date of the commencement of this Ordinance possesses a valid and unexpired licence for importing or dealing in arms need take out a new licence under this Ordinance until the expiration of his current licence." Mr. Reece, for the defendant, contended that, the licence produced by the defendant not having expired, no permit was necessary. His Worship was of the same opinion and dismissed the case.

Early on Thursday morning a dust-cart in Shelley street was accidentally let loose. It rushed down the incline with great rapidity and striking a building in Hollywood road made a large hole in the wall. Fortunately no one crossed its path or the result would have been serious.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. the seaman employed on board the *Empress of India* were charged with stealing \$900 odd from a Chinese money-lender when the vessel was in Yokohama Harbour on the 9th March. The complainant and his assistant gave evidence and the case was further adjourned.

The Return of Cases of Communicable Disease in the Colony during the week ended 28th April shows that there were 33 cases of plague (31 in Victoria) and 23 deaths; one case of diphtheria and one death (Portuguese); and 3 cases of enteric fever; and one death. The plague record up to noon of the 3rd inst. from the beginning of the year is 124 cases and 108 deaths.

Early on Thursday morning the police at Kowloon were informed by telephone from the Police Station at Kowloon City that at 11 o'clock the previous evening an armed robbery took place at the village of Ma Tau Wai. It appears that eight men carrying revolvers and swords burst open two houses, and having terrified the inmates into submission proceeded to ransack the premises, finally decamping with clothing other property of the value of \$70. One of the houses was occupied by a woman and a small boy, and the other by three women. The robbers had lighted torches in their hands, and seem to have used them for burning the woman on the hand and the boy on the cheek. Immediately on receipt of the news of the robbery the police at Kowloon were on the alert, and four of the men with some of the stolen property in their possession were arrested on the road leading to Kowloon City, Sergeant Cameron securing two and an Indian constable two.

The tenth annual meeting of the District Grand Arch Chapter of Hongkong and South China was held on the 26th ult. the M. E. Comp. presiding. The following officers were appointed:—District Third Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. J. D. Christie; District Grand Scribe E. M. E. Comp. A. O'D. Gourdin; D.G. Grand Scribe N. M. E. Comp. W. L. Ford; D.G. President of General Purposes Committee, M. E. Comp. J. Bryant; D.G. Treasurer, M. E. Comp. G. L. Tomlin; D. G. Registrar, M. E. Comp. G. A. Caldwell; D.G. Principal Sojourner, M. E. Comp. R. Mitchell; D.G. First Assistant, M. E. Comp. F. Cass; D.G. Second Assistant, E. Comp. P. Brewitt; D.G. Sword Bearer, M. E. Comp. T. E. Hough; D.G. Standard Bearers, M.E. Comp. H. J. Watson; M.E. Comp. G. P. Lammert; E. Comp. J. G. Gotz; E. Comp. A. S. Hooper; D.G. Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp. G. Piercy, Jr.; D.G. Dir. of Ceremonies, E. Comp. J. Bremner; D.G. Assistant Dir. of Ceremonies, E. Comp. G. W. Crombie; D.G. Organist, E. Comp. A. G. Ward; D.G. Janitor, E. Comp. J. R. Grimble; Unofficial Members Committee of General Purposes, M.E. Comp. F.W. Heuermann, M.E. Comp. G. J. W. King.

A meeting of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy yesterday afternoon to consider an application from one Wilhelm Krater permission to remove his licensed publican's business from houses Nos. 288 and 290, Queen's Road Central to houses Nos. 304-306 Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle Hotel." Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate, presided and there were also present Messrs. D. B. Crawford, (Rev.) R. F. Cobbold, H. P. Looker, O. S. Sharp, and Melbourne (Clerk to the Justices). Mr. Wilkinson, who appeared for the applicant, said his client had been the licensed proprietor of the "Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle" for several years past. Unfortunately he never obtained a written lease of the premises. He only got a verbal agreement for two or three years' lease, which of course was absolutely useless. The premises had been sold to two or three Chinamen, who gave his client a month's notice to quit on the 10th April. The premises to which he desired the license to be transferred occupied the site of a house which was used as a public-house for many years. The former house was occupied by Mr. Gomes, who had gone to other premises. There was no police objection, and the license was granted.

A visitor who returned to Hongkong from Canton on the 2nd inst. had the experience more rare than pleasant on Tuesday of seeing no less than seven "pirates" beheaded on the execution ground, Canton.

The Return of deaths in the colony for the month of March shows that 23 of the European and foreign community died, 18 from the civil population and five from the military; while deaths among the Chinese amounted to 503, including 363 in Victoria (of which 124 were in No. 2 District); and 42 in the Harbour. Chest Affections accounted for 174 deaths, including five from the European and foreign community.

At the athletic sports of the Mohammedan Boys' Club on the 29th ult. the principal events and winners were:—Long Jump, S. Hateem (15 ft. 2 in.); 100 Yards Handicap, D. Rumjahn, owes 3 yards; High Jump, D. Rumjahn (4 ft. 10 in.); 600 Yards Handicap, D. Rumjahn, scratch; Throwing Cricket Ball, D. Rumjahn; 300 Yards Handicap for Non-Moslems, Li Sik Ling, scratch; Quarter-mile Handicap, S. Hateem, scratch; Quarter-mile Handicap for Non-Moslems, Wong Shui Cheung, 20 yards; Moslem Challenge Cup (half-mile), A. R. Kadar; Consolation Race, J. Rumjahn.

The Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the colony for 1899 shows that the estimated population was 259,310. The births were 1,132 and deaths 6,181, of which 1,434 were from plague. The birth-rate was 4.3 per 1,000 as against 4.7 in 1898; the death-rate 23.8 per 1,000 as against 22.3 in 1898. The death-rates of the different races were:—Whites 12.5 per 1,000 (16.2 in 1898); Coloured 28.3 (33.6 in 1898); Chinese 24.4 (22.54 in 1898, the increased mortality being due to plague). In the Return of Statistics of Population there seems to be a serious error. The number of inhabitants for 1898 is given at 254,400. There were in 1899 1,132 births and 6,181 deaths, 110,448 immigrants and 61,075 emigrants. Yet the increase of population is given at 4,910 only, though births and immigration give an excess of 44,324 over deaths and emigration.

The bowling alley at Kowloon Hotel was gaily decorated on Tuesday evening, the 1st inst., on the occasion of a dinner given by the officers and crew of the U.S.S. *Don Juan de Austria* in commemoration of Dewey Day and the commissioning of the captured gunboats U.S.S. *Don Juan de Austria*, U.S.S. *Isla de Cuba*, and U.S.S. *Isla de Luzon*, the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack occupying a prominent position in the decorations. About 140 persons sat down to dinner, including Naval-Constructor Hobson and Gunner J. T. Roach, of the *Monterey*; Captain P. C. Maclean and Lieutenant A. Rust of the *Don Juan de Austria*; and Lieut. J. R. Morris and Naval Cadet L. S. Stapley of the *Isla de Cuba*. Mr. O. E. Reh acted as master of ceremonies. The arrangements were made by a committee composed of Messrs. V. P. Rondall (president), J. Schrod (vice-president), T. Power (secretary), and P. de Bleeker (treasurer). Messrs. R. T. Seely, E. F. Jones, and J. W. Elsieley formed the reception committee. After dinner the band of the Hongkong Regiment played selections, interspersed with songs and brief speeches by Naval-Constructor Hobson, Captains Maclean, Gilmore, and others.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—The price continues to advance, the market being brisk. Quotations for Formosa are: \$99.00 to \$99.50; sales 500 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—The position of the market remains the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.85 to \$7.90	pel.
do. " 2, White...	7.13 to 7.18	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.35 to 5.40	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.20 to 5.25	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.91 to 7.94	"
do. " 1, White...	7.20 to 7.24	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.25 to 5.30	"
do. " 2, Brown...	5.10 to 5.15	"
Koochow Sugar Candy...	11.68 to 11.72	"
Shekloong " "	9.80 to 9.85	"

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—Malwa.—Market is firm and prices show an improvement on last week's sales. Present quotations are:—

2 years Old Malwa	\$930
3 " " "	940
4/5 " " "	950

Bengal.—Owing to small stock in the place and better demand from the consuming districts rates have further advanced. New Patna to \$937½, New Benares \$945, and Old Patna \$932½.

Persian.—Best quality is quoted at \$900.	
Malwa.....	650 chests.
Patna.....	1,125 "
Benares.....	829 "
Persian.....	2,100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 2	890	945	885	955	900	950
Apr. 30	890	945	885	955	900	950
May. 1	890	945	885	955	900	950
May. 2	890	945	885	955	900	950
May. 3	890	945	885	—	900	950
May. 4	890	945	897½	—	900	950

RICE.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—Large arrivals having been reported, the prices are going downward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.73 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality.....	2.95 to 3.00
" Long.....	3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2...	2.85 to 2.90
" Garden, " No. 1...	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	3.35 to 3.40
" Fine Cargo.....	4.10 to 4.15

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$ 82.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24,.....	116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32,.....	129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42,.....	147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.....	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.....	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.....	2.95 to 3.80
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.90 to 4.85
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.....	2.75 to 2.95
58 to 60 ".....	3.25 to 3.95
64 to 66 ".....	4.25 to 5.00
Fine.....	5.20 to 8.00
Book-folds.....	4.55 to 6.45
Victoria Lawns—12 yards... ..	0.80 to 1.60
T-Cloths—61bs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.85 to 2.00
71bs. (32 ").....	2.10 to 2.30
61bs. (32 "), Mexs.....	2.00 to 2.20
71bs. (32 "), ".....	2.55 to 2.90
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs.....	4.30 to 7.20

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs.....	1.75 to 7.20
Brocades—Dyed.....	4.20 — 5.20

Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.26 to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.23 to 0.28
Handkerchiefs Imitation Silk.....	0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundr.....	1.00 to 1.75
Ger " ".....	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad ".....	1.55 to 1.75
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.70 to 10.30
Assorted.....	6.80 to 10.40
Camlets—Assorted.....	13.20 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds., 3½ incl. s.....	13.50 to 23.00
Assorted.....	— to —
Orleans—Plain.....	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.....	4.20 to 16.40

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod.....	6.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar(Eng.).....	6.25 to —
Swedish Bar.....	8.00 to —
Small Round Rod.....	7.25 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.....	7.50 to —
Wire 15/25.....	9.75 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	10.40 to —
Australian.....	10.40 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
New Chop, 14/20 oz.....	— to —
Composition Nails.....	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00 to —
Tin.....	82.00 to —
Tin-Plates.....	7.90 to —
Steel ½ to ½.....	7.00 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver.....	175.00 to —
Window Glass.....	6.50 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	2.86 to —

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—There is no improvement to report in the market. Rates as a rule show a further small decline and business continues dull.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, after being on offer all the week at 310–305 per cent. prem., were finally placed at 303 per cent. and the market now closes with sellers at \$302. Nationals remained at 28½ during the early part of the week and close at \$28 sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue on offer at \$44½ with small sales. Unions have changed hands at \$245 and more shares are wanted at that rate. Cantons are enquired for at quotation, but shares seem scarce and difficult to get. Straits continue dull and without business. In the Northern Insurance North China and Yangtszes have found small buyers at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas remain on offer at \$295 and 80 respectively without finding purchases.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steady with a small business at \$30½ and \$30½. Indo Chinas appear rather weaker with probable sellers at \$9½ and only with small sales. Douglases continue on offer at \$50 without finding buyers and probably a point lower would be accepted. China Manilas and China Mutuels unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed at \$128 and close quiet at that rate. Luxons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have declined further to \$6 with sales, whilst preferences are obtainable at \$1.20. Jelebus, Olivers, and Great Easterns have changed hands in small lots at quotations. Raubs continue dull and neglected with small sales and sellers \$55.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed in small lots at \$490 and close steady at that rate. Kowloon Wharfs continue in request at \$52 and sales are reported at that rate.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDING.—Hongkong Lands remain very quiet with sellers and only small sales at \$124 and \$155. Hotels continue weak and without business at \$118. West Points have found further buyers at \$47½ and close steady at \$48. Humphreys have changed hands at \$10½ and \$11, closing steady at the latter rate.

COTTONS.—Hongkongs remain unchanged and without business. In the absence of local business quotations for the Northern mills are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled rather easier with sellers and but few sales at \$31½. Watsons have changed hands and are enquired for at \$16½. Electrics have found buyers at \$11½ and \$11.75, closing steady at the latter rate. Loes have been placed at \$166 and China Providents at \$10.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	302 p. ct. prem.—
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	£28, sales & buyers
Foun. Shares	£8	£28, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	£1 buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$18, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$10, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$127.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 65.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$87.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$83, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$31, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$11, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$165, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$117, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$166.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$37, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	490 p. ct. prem.—
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180 buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$80, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$295, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 165.
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$50	\$245, sales & buys.
Yangtze	\$60	\$124.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$125, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$25, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$40, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$300, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$5	52 1/2 cts., buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts.
Jebeu	\$5	\$12, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	20 cents sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. B.	\$4	\$1.25, sel ers
Punjom	\$6	\$6, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20, sellers
Raubs	15s 10d.	\$55, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$20, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$100.
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£10.10,
China Ordinary	£10	£10.10, sellers
Do.	£5	£5, 5s.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$50, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$32, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$91, sales
Shell Transportand	£100	\$260.
Trading Co.		
Star Ferry	\$7	\$18, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$7, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$11.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37	\$52, sales & buys.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 4th May.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	111 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	200 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3 1/2 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	117 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3 % pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 1/2 % pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVERNIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tael	52.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27 1/2

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—	Alcinous (str.), Chusan (str.),
Malacca (str.), Patroclus (str.), Agamemnon (str.),	
Sanuki Maru (str.).	
For MARSEILLES.—	Ernest Simons (str.), Malacca
(str.), Yangtze (str.).	
For BREMEN.—	Preussen (str.).
For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—	Idomeneus (str.), Ixion
(str.).	
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—	Königsberg (str.)
Ambria (str.), Bamberg (str.), Sarnia (str.), Sam-	
bia (str.).	
For VICTORIA, B.C.—	Queen Adelaide (str.).
For VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—	Empress of
Japan (str.).	
For PORTLAND, O.—	Monmouthshire (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—	China (str.), Doric (str.),
Idsumi Maru (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.).	
For NEW YORK.—	St. Regulus (str.), Geo. T. Hay.
For SAN DIEGO AND KORE.—	Strathgyle (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—	Kasuga Maru (str.), Teinan
(str.).	
For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—	
Arratoon Apar (str.).	
For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—	Bisagno
(str.).	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

April—	
27, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.	
27, Rickmer Rickmers, Ger. sh., from Cardiff.	
28, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.	
28, Liguria, Italian cruiser, from Shanghai.	
28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
28, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.	
28, Airie, British str., from Sydney.	
28, Diamante, British str., from Manila.	
28, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
29, Chihli, British str., from Chinkiang.	
29, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.	
29, Ixion, British str., from Moji.	
29, Loongsang, British str., from Iloilo.	
29, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
29, Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.	
29, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.	
30, Eastern, British str., from Japan.	
30, Maoduff, British str., from Saigon.	
30, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.	
30, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.	
30, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.	
30, Hiasang, British str., from Moji.	
30, Normannia, Danish str., from Moji.	
30, Else, German str., from Canton.	
30, P. Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.	
May—	
1, Hailan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
1, Yuenang, British str., from Manila.	
1, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.	
1, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.	
1, Hamburg, German str., from Hamburg.	
1, Malacca, British str., from Yokohama.	
1, Queen Adelaide, British str., from Saigon.	
1, Petraroh, German str., from Sourabaya.	
1, Sarnia, German str., from Hamburg.	
1, Victoria, Swedish str., from Chefoo.	
1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.	
1, Orlando, British cruiser, from Manila.	
2, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.	
2, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	
2, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.	
2, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.	
2, Murex, British str., from Novorossiisk.	

2, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.	
2, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.	
2, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	
2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.	
3, Mackow, British str., from Saigon.	
3, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
3, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.	
3, Phra Ohom Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.	
3, Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.	
3, Alboin, British str., from Bangkok.	
3, Pakshan, British str., from Saigon.	
3, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from O'kiang.	
3, Shantung, British str., from Java.	
3, Broadmayne, British str., from Polo Samlo.	
4, Nanchang, British str., from Tientsin.	
4, Sarnia, German str., from Hamburg.	
4, Diomed, British str., from Liverpool.	
4, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.	
4, Abergeldie, British str., from Portland.	
4, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Karatsu.	
4, Yangtze, British str., from Shanghai.	

April— DEPARTURES.

28, Bengal, British str., for Europe.	
28, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.	
28, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.	
28, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.	
28, Esmeralda, British str., for Iloilo.	
28, Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.	
28, Quarta, German str., for Singapore.	
28, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.	
28, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.	
29, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.	
29, Maidzura Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
29, Peiyang, German str., for Nagasaki.	
29, Chingwo, British str., for Shanghai.	
29, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.	
29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.	
30, John Currier, Amr. sh., for P. Townsend.	
30, Decima, German str., for Chefoo.	
30, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.	
30, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.	
30, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.	
30, Chihli, British str., for Canton.	

May—

1, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.	
1, Liguria, Italian cruiser, for Singapore.	
1, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.	
1, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., for Singapore.	
1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.	
1, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.	
1, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.	
1, Machaon, British str., for London.	
1, Hunan, British str., for Canton.	
2, Hamburg, German str., for Shanghai.	
2, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.	
2, Taisang, British str., for Canton.	
2, Else, German str., for Chefoo.	
2, St. Irene, British str., for Rangoon.	
2, Carlisle City, British str., for S. Francisco.	
2, Batoum, British str., for Saigon.	
2, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.	
2, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.	
2, Diamante, British str., for Manila.	
2, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.	
3, Victoria, Swedish str., for Java.	
3, Franz Sokwalbe, Danish bark, for Menado.	
3, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.	
3, Lady Joicey, British str., for Hongay.	
3, Trym, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.	
3, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.	
3, Hailan, British str., for Swatow.	
3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Tientsin.	
3, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.	
4, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for London.	
4, Eastern, British str., for Sydney.	
4, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
4, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.	
4, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
4, Sarnia, German str., for Yokohama.	
4, Mobile Bay, British bark, for Callao.	

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Hongkong Maru, from San Francisco, &c.,
Capt. E. T. Strong, U.S.N., Mr. R. E. Ham-
phreys, Mrs. C. A. Carr, Mr. A. von Pustan,
Mrs. von Pustan, Chaplain R. P. Reynolds,
U.S.N., Messrs. W. M. Humphreys, L. F. Laing,
Us Kwan Ting, Wang Lai and Lee Chee Shun.
Per Coromandel, for Hongkong, from London,
Messrs. Stewart, Richards, Marston, Brown,
Quail, Dargent, Lewis, Choeman and Southern;
from London via Bombay, Mr. Hall; from Mar-
seilles, Messrs. May, Edwards and Rowand;
from Brindisi, Mr. Galloway; from Port Said,
Dr. S. L. Loeell; from Bombay, Rev. Fallera,
Mr. Havarana, Lieut. Col. Brown, and Mr.

Portuala; from Colombo, Mr. A. L. Maggeridge; from Singapore, Messrs. A. Abdoohay, Wan Boon, J. W. Harris, H. W. Corry, H. S. Swain, W. Shneider, Wilkinson, H. McGill, Domingues, Mrs. G. Margado, Mrs. Kabito Domingues, Mr. Ramos and Chinese assistant, Dr. C. Rosseler and Mr. Fong Chin; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. Chaplin and J. J. Meakin; from Marseilles, Mr. Jackson and Dr. Clement; from Bombay, Mr. W. D. Setna; for Yokohama, from London, Mrs. Jerome; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Parkinson; from Bombay, Mr. Ishioajee; for Kobe, from Bombay, Messrs. Kita and Vania; from Singapore, Messrs. Shewell and E. H. Hartley.

Per *Chihki*, from Chinkiang, Mrs. Fildes and child.

Per *Airtis*, from Australia, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. G. De Gynlay, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Messrs. W. Hanbury, H. Herzfelder, R. H. Foy, Lee Gun and Ye Feng.

Per *Diamonds*, from Manila, Messrs. Braga, F. Jorge, Deherty, R. Morley, Miss Kent, Mr. Beale, Mr. Banhorst, Mr. and Mrs. Spitz, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Jorge, Mr. and Mrs. Thistlewaite, Mr. Lack, Mr. and Mrs. Balton, Mrs. Alexandino, Messrs. H. Smith, Koslentacou, Wellarge, Miss Blanch Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Huxson, Messrs. Findlay, Jones, Engelslyon and L. Spitzel.

Per *Eastern*, from Japan, Mrs. W. H. Sparke, Mrs. Grendwater, Miss A. Goode, Mrs. E. Thomas and Hon. Percy Elliot.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Yokohama, Messrs. J. H. Pye, Jro. Stickney and wife, R. Lemke and wife, Mrs. Hoare and family, Miss Cooreft, Messrs. Ah Kin, C. F. Milne, J. Smith, Gg. Rose and Kumsney.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Chiffer and child.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. W. Millward and child, Messrs. E. Porse, J. McDonald, Lu Chu Nym and Lu Tai Jin.

Per *Yuenang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Angier, Mrs. Mercer and child, Miss Tusson, Mrs. Logarda and child, Messrs. Hermann, Tapia, Hierli, Brown, Tusson, Phelan, Holliday, Munoz, Alvarez, Maencheon, Milhausen, Baptista, Loyzaga, Mr. and Mrs. Houson, Mr. and Mrs. Caide and son, Mr. and Mrs. Augustin and daughters, Mr. and Miss Tapia, Mr. and Mrs. Martinez Munoz.

Per *Malacca*, from Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. Hatherley, Dr. and Mrs. Hoskyn, Misses Hoskyn, Schwabe (2), Pattison, Sharples, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. White, Mrs. Rodger, Messrs. Arnold, Ceresole, Blechynden, Sharples, Beart and Schwabe.

Per *Hamburg*, from Bremen, for Hongkong, Messrs. Otto von Jordan, Rudolf Leissing, Hugo Lieb, Gustav Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Andr. Schoenemann, Miss Adele Schoenemann, Miss Lizzie Schoenemann, Mr. Herm. Schierenberg; for Shanghai, Miss Helene Göttsch, Miss Elly Münch, Mrs. Nebel and children; from Antwerp, for Shanghai, Mr. Coppeters; from Southampton, for Shanghai, Miss Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bennertz, Mr. Collins, Miss Crocker, Mr. Geo. Fisher, Miss Zelle Hunnex, Messrs. Hunnex and Geo. Kay, Miss Parker, Miss Prindville, Mr. Alex. Reid, Miss Slater, Mr. T. B. Clarke Thornhill and valet; for Yokohama, Mrs. Cox, Mr. R. G. E. Forster (H.B.M. Consul at Yokohama), Mrs. R. G. E. Forster, children and maids, Count Alexander Hoyos, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Wilson, children and amah; from Genoa, for Hongkong, Messrs. Eduard Amhold, Rudolf Brandes, Fritz Bargmann, W. N. Fleming, Vice-Konsul Lang, Kaiserl. Konsul G. Siemsen and Mr. Jul. Ferd. Wahlen; for Shanghai, Miss Elise Bäumer, Miss Salome Blumhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Frances A. Carl, Messrs. Endel and Wilh. Neack, Mrs. L. Schüler; for Yokohama, Vice-Consul Adolph Boje, Messrs. Otto Meyer and Carl Raab, Mrs. Marie Rehling and Mr. Richard Steinbach; from Naples, for Shanghai, Mr. Georges Lemet and Taotai Meizo and secretaries.

Per *Phra Chom Klao*, from Bangkok, &c., Mr. N. H. Johnson.

Per *Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Avetoom, Miss Avetoom, Messrs. Foakes, Smith, Taylor, David, and Thomson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Aisa Maru*, from Hongkong, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Pallister, Comdr. Kondo,

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Spieler, Messrs. Fujiwara, Saki, G. Braithwaite and D. Shibakawa.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Hongkong, for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Messrs. F. S. Moses, A. Marks, E. Espenhahn, Wm. Munro, Mrs. Stott, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cooper; for Melbourne, Miss Cooper; for Brisbane, Mrs. C. Riley; for Manila, Mrs. J. Switzer and child, Mr. Geo. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Fitton and 2 children, Mr. W. B. Walker, Capt. R. W. Rose, U.S.A., Mr. R. Lyons, Madame Andree and children (2), Mrs. L. A. Carr, Miss Auguste Andree.

Per *Bingo Maru*, from Hongkong, for Marseilles and London, Commander Takagi, Com-mander Taneko, Lieut. K. Anbo, Paymaster S. Uno Liuet, M. Isokai, Sub-Lieut. T. Miyaji, Miss Y. Yokohama, Messrs. Matsuka, G. Ukita, Surgeon H. Fujita, Inspector of Mach: J. Kano, Chief Engineer G. Tomonaga, Messrs. Kurasaki, Sturasaki, S. Saito, H. Stumura, Hisatomi, I. Ikezawa, T. Ohnishi, Ikarashi, K. Iwasaki, I. Onistuka, Mr. and Mrs. Sprague and 4 children, Mr. K. Watanabe and Miss I. Mistumatsu; for London 226 I. J. Navy's Crew.

Per *Bengal*, from Yokohama, for London, Mr. E. W. Arnold; for Brindisi, Miss S. C. Cochran and two Misses O'Brien; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Frizell and infant; from Kobe, for London, Mrs. F. J. Abbott and family; from Nagasaki, for London, Mrs. F. G. Stone and child; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Dr. Bremner; for Marseilles, Miss Wollaston; for London, Mrs. Smythe, Mr. W. H. Bell, Miss Bettinson, Miss Mellor, Miss Pickles, Miss Jansen, Master Folke, Mrs. and Miss Short, Mr. W. H. Wilson, Mrs. Master and Miss Morgan; from Hongkong, for London, Messrs. W. W. Haufe and James Partington, Mrs. Farquhar, Rev. Starr, Sergt. and Mrs. John Baker and family and Mr. G. W. Stöcker; for Marseilles, Miss Wedderspoon, Miss Gardner; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Adams, Mr. N. M. Shaffer, Jr., Mr. A. E. Twyford; for Bombay, Messrs. P. C. Patell and N. A. Mackay, Mrs. Patell and three children; for Singapore, Lieut. F. G. Hendley and Mr. A. G. Walsh.

Per *Coremandel*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Mrs. Stewart and infant, Mr. F. Leyburn and native servant, Mr. Baker and native servant, Mr. H. Figge, Mr. and Mrs. H. McGill, Mr. and Mrs. E. Tootal Broadhurst. Through passengers joining at Hongkong—for Yokohama via Shanghai, Dr. Macaulay and Mr. A. Stevenson; from London, for Yokohama, Lieut. J. Douglas Ross, R.N.R.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. G. Shimura; for Singapore, Mr. J. Ohohi; for Marseilles, Messrs. T. E. Beatty, S. Murata, T. Shiga, Mrs. S. Yoshida and child, Messrs. T. Idzumiya, Y. Sakuma, H. Miliyama, S. Orincha and one I. J. Navy Crew; for St. Nazaire, Comdr. K. Kaidzumi, Comdr. K. Hiro-watari, Lieut. N. Matsumoto, Lieut. Y. Moore, Sub-Lieut. K. Muda, Sub-Lieut. S. Wakita, Chief Engineer K. Sadanaga, Chief Engineer Y. Tanaka, 2nd Engineer S. Nomura, Inspector and Paymaster H. Yamazaki, Messrs. K. Tasuda, J. Hiraoka, J. Matsumura, D. Iriye and 226 I. J. Navy Crew; for London, Messrs. J. Yamanaka, Y. Sawaki, M. Nagahama, Rev. and Mrs. Ware and 7 children.

Per *Resatta*, from Hongkong, for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Colenso, Mr. Chan Yun Pay and servant, Mrs. Chun Pun Pay and two children, Mrs. Tang, Mr. A. L. Maggeridge and Mr. Ng Chan; for Yokohama, Mr. F. H. Young, Mr. Yue Cheong, Mrs. Yue Cheong and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Pan. Through passengers joining at Hongkong—for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. Lees, Mr. and Mrs. Parkinson; from London, Miss B. F. Jerome; from Singapore, Mr. Sh. for Kobe, from Bombay, Messrs. N. Kita, D. H. Vania; for Nagasaki, from Penang, Mr. Taylor.

Per *Gaelic*, for Shanghai, Messrs R. H. Foy, R. Inglis and native servant, L. Spitzel, A. J. Findlay, Brown, C. W. D. son, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hudson, Master Hudson, infant and European maid servant; for Nagasaki, Messrs D. Noma, Sigametu, A. Gillo, R. Bowles, F. D. Hargreaves and J. Null; for Kobe, Mr. F. Henderson; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, Mr. C. R. Cumming, Mrs. C. H.

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